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# ANNALS OF CASTLE CREEK, N. Y., AND VICINITY



Together with Genealogies of Some of  
the Early Families.



By JULIUS W. LILLY  
Chicago, Ill., 1903.



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# ANNALS OF CASTLE CREEK, N. Y., AND VICINITY.

How many who daily pass the old "red school house" in the 'Lilly' district, know that it had that name long before Binghamton was on Uncle Sam's roster of post offices? I have letters now yellow with age, directed to "Chenango Point" and others mailed there, which were written from the Lilly district, when Castle Creek was only "Tater Creek," and it was many years later when the store and tavern were blessed with a post office and was then named Castle Creek. That name itself, is almost or quite the only remembrance left us, of the Indians who loved this lovely valley and had built the wigwam of their chief, the "Castle," as the white man called it, near where the creek is lost in the bosom of the beautiful Chenango river. There used to be some old apple trees near that spot, which the Indians had planted, many many years before and could not take with them, when they turned their faces toward the setting sun, but I fear they too, are gone! These Indians were a portion of the "Nanticoke Tribe," formerly inhabitants of Maryland.

The tribe was divided, a part being located on the eastern lower portion of the Wyoming Valley, and others at Owego, Chenango and Choconut, (spelled in old histories Chokunut and Chokoanut.) Their chief was "Squire" Antonio, which title was given him by the whites on account of his just decisions, his correct judgment and his sober habits. He was very much esteemed by the white people, as well as revered and loved by his own. He was intelligent, but spoke English very poorly. He was a descendant of the Delawares that were defeated in the "grasshopper" war at Wyoming. The "Castle" farm, or reservation of 160 acres, later occupied by Joseph and Thomas Laycock, was by an in-

trigue of a Yankee named Patterson, taken by fraud from the Indians, but they, some time afterward, took his life in revenge.

It is said that in the early days of the settlement, a resident was fording the stream with a load of potatoes, which were lost by the giving way of his wagon box. They floated down with the current and becoming self planted, produced quite a harvest. Hence the name—"Potato Creek."

The town of Chenango was colonized under the most unfavorable auspices. Hardships and privations were then passed through which are unknown to the settlers of new counties in these modern times. As a writer has said, "the people then had more pains in their bodies than in their windows."

The Broome County *Herald* once published some items regarding Broome-co. in 1813. "It was then composed of six towns: Berkshire, Lisle, Tioga, Union, Nanticoke, Ouaquago, Colesville and *Chenango Point*, which was the county seat and contained 45 houses and stores. The county first began to be settled by, or before 1790, by farmers largely from western Massachusetts. The population was 8129 and its voters numbered 655. A goodly part of the county was heavily timbered and wild game was very abundant.

The "Annals of Binghamton" were first published in 1840 by J. B. Wilkinson. That edition was exhausted and it was reprinted by the "Times Association" in 1872, with notes by George Park, Esq. An appendix was also written by Prof. George Jackson, thus bringing the history down to 1872. There are yet a few copies of this edition in the market. In this history the village of Binghamton is made the center of interest, but other

places in the county (Broome) are treated of in some measure, according to their relation to it.

It is said that previous to 1840, Colonel William Rose, one of the first settlers, made historical minutes to an important extent, but unfortunately they were lost or accidentally burned.

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These rambling memories and records of the early settlers do not profess to be complete or absolutely correct, but are given because of a desire to gather together, before it is too late, a record of those who preceded us and who helped to make life easier for us who followed. Any corrections or additional facts will be welcomed by the writer and embodied in a later chapter, which will be prepared when such data is received. These facts are gained from old letters and from the memories of the "oldest inhabitants and are at best but fragmentary.

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Some early occupants of farms on Castle Creek, commencing with the "Castle farm" on the river, at the junction of the Creek road, passing northward, were Thomas, Clement and Ebenezer French, Daniel Bishop who soon sold to Franklin French, Captain James Temple, the Johnsons', Nathaniel and Lyman Lee, David and Jedediah Seward, (the latter an old Revolutionary soldier), Stephen S. Tompkins, Henry Siver, Tyrus and John Page, Sylvanus Dimmick, Amos Wilcox, Ariel Rood, Samuel Mills and Root French, a Mr. Bissell, Orsamus Lilly, Hiram Davis, Isaac Bowen, Henry Lilly, Samuel Hand, the Dormans and Searwards who sold to Ammi Doubleday and Harry Pierce, of Binghamton, Arunah Hall, Foster Lilly, Jonathan Lilly, Tidall Knapp, Daniel Bishop and Ira French, Alexander White, Nathan Marsh, Eliphalet Phelps, Judson Phelps, brother of Apollos N. Phelps, David L. Hall, Frank Brooks, Bradley Alderman and son Israel P.; Samuel Hawkes, A. N. Phelps, James Gaylord, Abner Wood, Riley Parker and others whose names cannot be recalled. This list embraces only those who resided south of the village proper. On the "Oak Hill" road were Mr. Newman, Oliver Hatch, Harvey Westfall, Chester Pease, Rich-

ard Parker and Truman Satchwell. Later comers were Isaac Howard, George and William Ross, brothers and others unknown to the writer. On the Dimmick Hill road, some of the residents were the Johnsons, Jesse Heller, John Congdon, Albert West, Hiram West, Calvin Shepard, Lewis Bishop, Sylvester St. John, Horace Treadwell, Milo Isbell, George and Warren Matteson, Simeon Dimmick and sons Sylvanus, Constant and John. The neighborhood was named in honor of the Dimmicks, and while they were primarily the pioneers in the settlement of that place, yet their lives were so intermingled with the history of Castle Creek, that its history would be incomplete without some reference to the various members of the family, which will be taken up in its order later on.

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Ariel Rood is said to have been the pioneer settler on the place, owned later on in succession by Samuel Mills, Root French, and John S. Knapp. Samuel Mills at one time owned a part interest in the Orsamus Lilly saw mill, which interest he sold to Mr. Lilly about 1842. The first public highway ran close to the creek, passing by the Lilly mill.

The whole district was densely wooded with giant pines, whose stumps have but recently disappeared on the John S. Knapp farm, with tall hoary hemlocks, with fat juicy maples, many of which were left for sweetness long afterward, with generous chestnuts climbing up the hills, while oak, beech, birch, basswood and other timber was abundant. The family for whom the "Lilly" district is named was *one* of the first to enter this rough forest and we will begin with them.

Foster Lilly and wife, Deborah Hall Lilly, with a goodly number of children, came in 1816, from Ashfield, Mass., which had for years been the dwelling place of many of the name. They came in the usual manner of that time, with a good and substantial team of horses and wagon. Foster purchased a large tract of land in the so called "Boston Purchase," located some two miles south of the "Hollow." He made trips with his team to Syracuse, as occasion required, to get the

necessary domestic supplies for his own and his neighbors use.

This memorable year of 1816 was long remembered by that generation. "It was the coldest summer ever recorded in the country's history. Frost and snow were constant visitors the entire season through. Ail crops in the New England States were utterly ruined. Breadstuffs went soaring and people were on the verge of starvation." It is remembered that one "Tater Creek" family had on one of those days, soup made from the parings of the potatoes eaten the day before and nothing else. And as usual the head of the house invoked a blessing upon the food, after which one of the young olive branches remarked, "mother, I don't think that I would insult the Lord by asking Him to bless potato parings." One good wife was moved by the alarming scarcity of food, to count out a certain number of beans, at meal time, to each of her numerous flock, hoping in that way to make them go farther; and the children were glad to eat even the feet of chickens that had been cooked and also the potato skins, that nothing might be lost. On one occasion as Foster Lilly was about to make a trip to get supplies, a neighbor gave him a very handsome ten dollar bill, with which to buy grain for food. The first dealer to whom he offered it refused it, saying it was not good. When paying his bill to a second dealer, he espied this bill, saying, "Oh what a pretty bill, I want it." Lilly told him it was said to be not good, but as he persisted, a deal was effected. I have been told that had it not been for the grain purchased with that bill, the family would have perished with hunger. In those days of wildcat money it was very difficult to determine if a bill was genuine.

I well recollect my father's stories of the experiences of some of the pioneers; of how they were sometimes kept awake at night, by the snarling and fighting of wolves and other wild animals, which thrashed about in the adjacent underbrush; how two of his brothers once went to the barn to feed the stock and when ready to return to the house, were some time delayed by a pack of hungry gray timber wolves which had camped on their trail.

They were given the right of way and after a season of waiting they passed on and away, after which the return trip was speedily made. Wild animals were uncommonly plenty when the first settlers came. Martens were plenty and were caught in deadfalls for their fur. Panthers were frequently met with and shot by hunters. Bears, wolves and wild cats were numerous and large. Deer were very numerous; they were sometimes seen, twenty or thirty in a herd. Of this species of game, great numbers were killed yearly.

Three sons of Foster Lilly, Alvah, Foster and Arunah, became Presbyterian ministers. The former, Alvah, died but a few years since at White-water, Wis., at the ripe old age of 96. His daughter, Catherine, has for many years been a teacher and is at present engaged in this work at Milwaukee.

In 1832 Orsamus Lilly, Henry Lilly and Arunah Hall were elders of the First Presbyterian church at Binghamton

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The pioneer school house in the "Lilly" district, sometimes called the "lower school house," was located on the west side of the highway, nearly opposite the present giant elm tree, skirting the Orsamus Lilly farm, just north of the present farm house. Just south of the school house was a small creek, having its source far up the western hills, at the head of a deep and picturesque gulf or ravine, the sides of which were thickly studded with trees and saplings. This gulf was a favorite resort for the children of the entire neighborhood, and indeed it is to this day, often visited by parties from Binghamton, and other points.

The school house was constructed of planking, with an outer covering of clapboards. The seats were made of slabs smooth side up, supported by wooden legs, which were originally small saplings. As early or earlier than 1833, Sunday Schools and services were held within its walls. Among the earliest preachers were Rev. Marcus Ford, D. D. Gregory and F. Janes. One of the early school teachers was Jane Freelove Waterman, a granddaughter of James Wilson, one of the signers of the Declara-

Mr French



tion of Independence. She married Amos Wilcox, who lived to a ripe old age and recently died on his farm in the neighborhood. Mrs. Wilcox died there some time later. Other early teachers were Alonzo Freeman, William West, a brother of Albert West, who lived on Dimmick Hill; Dr. John Munsell, who married Mary Dunn, daughter of John Dunn; Pamela Livermore, (Mrs. Harry Lyon, recently deceased;) Sabrina Bishop, (Mrs. James Gaylord;) Betsey Hoard, (Mrs. Alson Congdon;) Laura Carey, a member of Orsamus Lilly's family; Martha West, daughter of William West, and Sally Hall, daughter of "Uncle" Arunah Hall, an early settler, a great uncle of Prof. G. Stanley Hall, now President of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., one of the leading educators of the present day. Sally Hall was a remarkable scholar and as a teacher had great ability. She taught for many years in this district and some time later married a Mr. Curran and lived and died in Vestal, N. Y. Her mother, Achsah Lyon Hall, was own cousin to Mary Lyon, of Mt. Holyoke, Mass. Not far from 1851 a new school house was built, about a half mile farther north, on a lot adjoining land owned by Jonathan Lilly, (my father) and nearly opposite the southern boundary of my grandfather, Foster Lilly's farm, whose house stood at the top of the hill, northward. Some of the first teachers in this new domicile were, Nelson Holden, of Vermont; Charles Miller, of Kattelville; Elizabeth Young, daughter of Hugh Young, of Oak Hill; Jane Bowen, daughter of Isaac Bowen; Caroline Nash; Ann French, daughter of Root French, who married Edgar B. Smith, son of Deacon Lyman B. Smith; Lucy Lilly, daughter of Orsamus Lilly, who married Newton B. Hand; Achsah L. Lilly, sister of Lucy, who married William B. Slosson. They removed to Albany, Kansas and now reside in Houston, Texas; Juliette Alderman, who married Captain Newell P. Rockwood and now live at Castle Creek; Louisa Hough, daughter of Alvah Hough, who married James Hogg, of "Mt. Eturick;" and Mary J. Blair, daughter of Edson Blair, of Oak Hill. She married Lucius W. Moody; they

settled at Buffalo, N. Y., and removed some time after to New Haven, Conn. She has been an M. D. for many years. At this date, I have just learned that Mr. Moody recently died in California, whence he had gone for the benefit of his health. If I have omitted any teachers from my list, will the party or parties, if living, please stand up and be counted? What cart loads of fun we all had at the "spelling bees," both at the home school and outlying schools, of a winter's eve! It is a matter of unwritten history, that when it came to "spelling down" that Martha White, Ellen French, Eunice Lilly and Julius W. Lilly of the Lilly district, were a winning combination!

The earliest settler of which I have record, was Jedediah Seward, born at Granville, Mass., 1753. He saw much service, as a private in the Revolutionary War. It is claimed that he came with his family to what is now Glen Castle, in 1786. He was buried in the cemetery there, and the C. A. Tompkins's Post G. A. R., placed at his grave a soldier's marble head stone, and the Tuscarora Chapter D. A. R. of Binghamton, also placed there a "Bronze Marker." It is said that a younger brother, David, came with him.

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Daniel Bishop, of Suffield, Conn., born 1773, married Katie Kent, about 1797, by whom he had three children. He is said to have been living on the Franklin French farm at Glen Castle, as early as 1805. His wife died in 1807. The place was owned by Lucy Veets, a sister of Hannah Sluyter, whose family lived at or near Binghamton (Chenango Point.) Daniel Bishop and Hannah Sluyter were married Sept. 18, 1808, and they removed to the Creek, or "Hollow" about 1814 or 15.

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1808-1812. Sylvanus Phelps, a native of Suffield, Conn., a relative of Mrs. Sarah Phelps Alderman, (Mrs. Bradley Alderman,) born in 1784, was a man of fine physique, broad shouldered, a six footer and over and a giant in stature and strength. He was very fond of hunting and wild adventure, and in 1808, perhaps earlier, shouldered his knapsack of clothing,



ammunition, guns, etc., and started out on a westward tramp, over into "York" State, and after some days brought up in a dense and unbroken wilderness, later known as "Tater Creek." He cleared a little plot of ground, where now stands the house of Israel P. Alderman, and put up a rude log shanty and "roughed it" for a period. Finding it an ideal hunting ground, abounding with game, he purchased a large tract of land in that vicinity, some of which comprised the farms later known as the Huntley, Brooks and Alderman places.

It is supposed that he bought this tract of wild forest land on his first trip. He afterward made three or four trips, usually coming early in the winter and after hunting for several weeks would then tramp back home to Suffield. At the close of his last visit east, he became over heated in a fox chase and after arrival home became ill with a fever, from which he died in Feb. 1812. It is said that in his travels he was everywhere on his route known as the "big yankee." An incident once occurred at Albany, N. Y. As he was putting up at a "tavern," after unlimbering his knapsack and other belongings, a bunch of fresh young men, some five or six, began to make sport of him and stumped him to wrestle with them. He told them that he did not want to fight or hurt any one, but if they cared to tackle him in a fair and decent manner, they were welcome to do so. As he stepped back to one side of the room, they advanced on him, when he shot out his long arms right and left and landed them all in a heap on the floor. After this episode they let him severely alone. The landlord had forewarned them they better not meddle with the "big yankee."

After his death this tract of land fell to his brothers and sisters: one of whom was the late Apollos N. Phelps. Bradley Alderman, settled on a portion of it in 1828. Eliphalet Phelps was at one time on the southern portion, but owing to the fact that his ambition was small, the land did not show much improvement during his occupancy. He sold off a piece of the south-west corner of the plot, to Foster Lilly, whose farm adjoined it. Israel P. Alderman relates

"that when he was a small boy, Mr. Lilly built a barn on his new purchase: that he attended the 'raising,' and as was then customary, a little 'sperits' was provided for those who assisted. However, no one took too much, as the liquid was the pure stuff."

After Eliphalet Phelps left the place the land reverted to Apollos Phelps, of Conn., who in 1845, sold it to Judson Phelps, his nephew, (a brother of Apollos N. Phelps.) Judson very much improved and developed the place and after some time sold it to Joseph Huntley, who remained there for some years.

Albert West, Isaac Bates and Sylvanus Judd operated a stage coach line late in the '40s, the route being from Binghamton, up the Creek road to Whitney's Point and return. It was an old style Concord, drawn by four horses. Its driver had and used the traditional stage coach horn. The greeting which all school children in the Lilly district were taught to give to passers by, never failed to be rendered in due form to the occupants of the old stage coach: the boys lined up and manfully doffed their hats and bobbed their heads, while the little girls gave a graceful courtesy.

It must have been a sort of "blue Monday" to very many people for miles about the French grist mill (at Glen Castle) when the water in the creek became so low that no grinding of grain could be done. It is said that "Uncle John Seymour," father of Henry Seymour, of Whitney's Point, used to tell of going in a canoe to "Willow Point" to mill, taking grists for all the neighbors and being gone three weeks. When folks went to mill those days, there was no telling when they would get back.

The very large farm at the top of the hill, just north of the village, had thereon a "tavern" kept at one time by William Porter and also by Milton Stevens. This was a stopping place for drovers, who frequently had 300 or more, cattle or sheep, in transit "overland" to the markets of New York, Philadelphia or Baltimore—previous to the time when shipments could be made by R. R. In certain seasons of the year there might be droves along every other day or so, and adequate accommodations for

such large herds were not frequent.

The Dunham log houses (on Dunham Hill—now Anoka) were built in 1838 and the families moved therein the next year. A few men, and a few only, are now living who helped at the "raising" of these houses, which were in the midst of an immense tract of woodland. Among others there were, William Twiss, George Eldridge and Peter Knapp, the two last named working on the same logs, which were to form the front of the house. There were skillful woodmen in those days and they carried good axes, and it was considered a nice job to fit the logs so as to make good corners next the road. Harry B. Stoddard, the Marean brothers, the Allens and Paynes from Nanticoke, were there and happy in the prospect of near neighbors soon. When the West Creek men were done they scattered through the woods hunting chestnuts.

Abner, Amos, Joshua and Asa Adams were lumbermen and they used to journey down to Castle Creek, up the Spencer Hill, over to Dimmick school house, past Breakers' Corners (West Chenango,) so called by an insane woman who used to fancy there were house breakers around; over Mt. Ettrick and down to Delano's Corners to get two pairs of oxen shod at a time. They thought nobody could shoe oxen like the "Dilnoes" and if they started at one o'clock in the morning and got back at the same time in the night, they called it a good days work.

Henry Lilly cleared up a portion of the Doubleday farm, located just north of his brother Orsamus' place. He built a house on the east side of the highway, just north of the present barn site. He was a Millwright and built several saw mills on the Creek, which were the first ones in that vicinity.

Orsamus and Jonathan Lilly did an extensive lumbering business, owning and operating saw mills for many years. Later on, after the timber had been exhausted, Jonathan manufactured and sold large quantities of wagon spokes' lath and fence pickets and after that he invented, made and sold many wellcurbs or windlasses.

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In the early days when huge lumber

piles dotted Jonathan Lilly's mill yards, there was near by a beautiful grove of maples, and camp meetings were often held therein. At sundry times during these meetings, some of the unregenerate youths of the vicinity would climb upon a pile of lumber, when some of their number would stand upon one end of a board, while others would lift high in the air the other end and suddenly letting go of it, it would spring back with a resounding whack, whereat these wicked boys would in chorus shout "Amen! Amen!" for the edification of the worshippers.

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"Wilkinson's Annals" states that "Henry French built the first grist mill in the County." As near as I can learn it was not Henry but Clement and Thomas French, who had grist and saw mills, which stood side by side. He also states that Amasa Leonard was an early settler on the river road. He should have said Amaziah Leonard. A maiden sister lived there with him, named Louisa Leonard, and Charles Holmes' mother lived with her until she died along in the '40s.

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Isaac Bates married a sister of Rev. Enos Puffer. They had a son Horace. An anecdote is handed down, which I will here record. A young man of the neighborhood was proposing to accept a business position in New York City. It came to the ears of "Obe," (there was but *one* Obe.) He is said to have remarked— "What! H— going to New York!" "Might just as well put him right on the devil's gun boat and send him straight to hell!"

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Dr. Daniel Braynard of New Hampshire, settled at Chenango Forks in 1820. He practiced at the Creek, more or less, for some time. Dr. Salphronieus H. French, who graduated at the Berkshire, Mass. Medical College in 1833, practiced for a little while before settling at Lisle, N. Y., in 1836. His successor was Dr. Cyrus Saunders, who studied with Dr. Peltiah B. Brooks, at Binghamton. He staid one year, when Dr. Peltiah's son, Dr. James Brooks, settled at the Creek in 1837. His successor was Dr. Loren Salisbury, who came about 1839. He

was a son of Deacon Cyrus Salisbury, of Lisle. He removed to Cincinnati, O., in 1851, and engaged in the drug business. His successors were John Munsell, S. P. Allen, Frank Taylor, Kit Carson French and Arthur Blair, son of Edson. Other non-residents who practiced quite extensively were Silas West, Dr. Blackman, Peltiah B. Brooks and R. R. Carr.

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Josiah West is supposed to have been the first Post Master. Dr. Salisbury may have been his successor. James Bristol had the office for several years thereafter. His successor was Darwin Howard, who was succeeded by O. M. Goodspeed, and the latter by Chas. M. Johnson, the present incumbent. About 1848 Dr. Salisbury had a select school for young ladies. Sarah Lilly, daughter of Foster, also kept a select school in her father's old house. Some of her pupils were Abigail Alderman, Jane Bowen, Laura Cary, Jane, Martha and Lucy Lilly. Sarah Lilly taught the "Hyde Street" district school in 1839. The current price then paid lady teachers was \$1.25 per week.

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William West is said to have been the first store keeper. He sold goods in a portion of his dwelling as early as 1825, and continued in business for about 20 years. Potash was then a current article of trade, in exchange for goods. It was worth some \$300 00 per ton in the Canadian market. The Wests, true to their name, went west about 1842. Lyman B. Smith opened a store April 1st, 1847, and continued in business until 1857, at which date Cornelius E. Dunn purchased a part of his stock and remained in business for a short time.

In a letter recently received from Deacon L. B. Smith, he says—"The mercantile business of Castle Creek, received its death blow when the Syracuse and Binghamton R. R. was built, in passing through Chenango Forks instead of the Creek. Upon the whole I did very well there. I had a large trade in wagon spokes, firkins and barrel staves. I sometimes took in \$100 daily for those goods from teamsters who were drawing butter and other produce to Binghamton to ship, but when the railroad was completed,

all this business was ended. My trade decreased \$4000 the following year."

Jacob Burroughs and Richard Townsend were early blacksmiths. David Ingersoll was "tavern" keeper in 1842. Philarmon Goodspeed came in 1849. He operated a saw mill for some years.

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Mrs. Harriet (Stratton) West, the widow of Albert West, who now resides with her daughter at Sabetha, Kansas, says that her father, Nathan Stratton, and wife Susan (Carter) Stratton, settled on Dimmick Hill before 1815. His widow, Susan Stratton was the third wife of Tyrus Page. She came with her parents from New Hampshire. Her sister, Lucy Carter, married Linus Smith.

Linus Smith of New Hampshire, an early settler, established a branch of the "Washingtonian Total Abstinence Society." The parent society was organized at Baltimore, Md., in 1840. The movement was carried into upwards of 160 towns and at the close of 1841 over 100,000 pledges had been taken, more than one-third of whom were confirmed drunkards. The old Washingtonian Hall near Hooper, is a reminder of those days. The writer has one of those pledges which was taken by his father in 1840. It is gilded and about the size of a ten dollar gold piece and seems as lustrous as the day it was made. The children of Linus Smith and Lucy (Carter) Smith were, Caroline, who married and went to Mass.; Jane, married Frank Brooks, who married 2d the widow of Joseph Shepard and they now live near Binghamton; and Mary Ann, who married Dexter Hawkes. Linus Smith lived and died on his farm near Dimmick Hill, later occupied by his son-in-law, Dexter Hawkes.

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Hiram Davis who married Selina Stowell lived at one time on the Lewis Haight farm. He had a son Sylvester who lived for many years with Jonathan Lilly.

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Apollos Phelps of Suffield, Conn., a brother of Mrs. Bradley Alderman, first visited the Creek in 1830, making the journey with his horse and buggy, to visit her. He was a large man of strongly marked individuality and all

of his ways and expressions were peculiar unto himself. He is said to have been impressed in a dream before leaving home, that God had some work for him to do in the vicinity of Castle Creek. Upon arriving in the neighborhood, he chanced to first stop at Foster Lilly's to enquire the way to his sister's place. He also enquired in particular as to their religious experiences and that of the vicinity in general, saying that the Lord had sent him and that He had a work for him to do there. He then drove on to his destination. Within a few days he had visited every house in the vicinity, telling all that God had sent him to them, and asked them to get together in order to hold a prayer meeting, which they did. There being as yet no "meeting houses" they met in various dwellings and at times in barns and the Lord greatly blessed those meetings in the conversion of many of the young people and several heads of families. Among the converts were Ira and Root French and Jonathan Lilly. It is related that after meeting Mr. Phelps for the first time, Mrs. Samuel Hawkes and Mrs. Foster Lilly were both of the same mind, "Thought him crazy on the subject of religion," but changed their minds after farther acquaintance! At the first meeting which was held at the home of Samuel Hawkes, it is said Mr. Phelps remarked "that he felt impressed there was some one present who was resisting God's spirit," and pointing to Mrs. Hawkes said "I think it is that sister over there in the corner; let her put that child off her lap and get down and pray." She did not then do so, but afterward said that she felt in her heart to say, "I will *not* put my child down and pray," but God's spirit did not leave her, but kept knocking at her heart until she was so overcome, she was forced to kneel down and pray. She often related these incidents to her friends with tears of joy streaming down her face. Numbers of the participants of those meetings, in speaking of them to each other, were unanimously agreed that neither before nor after did they ever attend such blessed meetings. Mr. Phelps was not converted until past 40 years of age; but from thence forward he became one of God's chosen instru-

ments for good. He was ever as a little child in all his religious ways and prayers; his was the prayer of faith, fully believing that God would fulfill all His promises if we were willing to do just as He bade us. He was signally blessed in being allowed to see results for good; never taking any credit to himself; giving unto God all the glory; himself but an humble instrument in His hands. He would leave his harvest field or any avocation in which he might be engaged and go forth whither he felt impressed by the spirit; yet he never so went without being sent, allowing us to judge by results that followed. This was his manner, even unto his dying day, at the ripe old age of 93 years. The text selected for his funeral service was: "Truly a great man in Israel has fallen this day," not great as judged by the world, but by God.

#### THE WESTS.

Recollections of Mrs. Harriet N. Boardman, as related to her daughter, Mrs. Mary H. Stackpole, of Riverhead, N. Y., (Long Island), October 1900, at Castle Creek, N. Y.

Josiah West, son of Thomas, removed with their families from near Brattleboro, Vt., to Whitesboro, N. Y., and thence in 1814, to what is now Castle Creek, N. Y. It was then a wilderness and they cut the first road through from Chenango Forks.

About where now stands the house of Anthony North, they found a log cabin, which had been occupied as a logging camp. It had no doors or windows, which were soon supplied. Great hemlock trees stood within a few feet of the cabin, and encompassed it for miles about. There was a road from Whitney's Point to Binghamton, such as it was, through Hyde settlement, to what later on was Asa Knapp's place, on Adams-st., and from thence through to the Oak Hill road, where later on lived Richard Knapp, the Stoddards and Blairs.

Southward about two miles, came Foster Lilly and family, in 1816, which place many years later was owned by John Cunningham and Willis Blair.

Yet two miles farther south lived Thomas French, who built the earliest saw and grist mills in the county, now called Glen Castle.

Not much later Phineas Spencer



came with his family, and built a log cabin on Spencer Hill, just west of Castle Creek.

Josiah West bought land on the west side of the road, extending from the foot of Cherry Ridge (Gaylord Hill) to the top of the big hill just north of the present village of Castle Creek. They went to "Cape Street," later called Kattellville, to services on Sunday and there William West, the eldest son of Josiah West, (1) became acquainted with Mary Smith, a school teacher, whose home was at Windsor, N. Y., and he married her in 1817. They began house-keeping in a little log (school) house at the foot (north) of Cherry Ridge Hill, the west side of the road. Their eldest child, Rachel, was born there in 1818. The following year William built a small house on the south side of the Spencer Hill road, at the foot of the hill. This was the first frame house in the vicinity and was about 16 by 18, one room, with a large fire place, with outside chimney, and a pantry beside it. He soon after added a "lean-to" for a bed-room and a square room for a loom. In this house Harriet and Sarah were born. In 1822 William was converted, and being desirous of entering the ministry, removed his family to Hamilton, N. Y., and entered the Baptist Theological Seminary. While there Warren and Martha were born. He returned to Castle Creek in 1826, and Nathaniel Kendrick was born in the frame house before mentioned. The next year William went to Killawog as pastor of the Baptist church and William W. was born there in 1829. William then came back to Castle Creek, moving into the tavern, where his father, Josiah, had been living. This tavern stood where Anthony North now lives. Here was born Josiah (3) in 1831, Mary Achsah 1833, and Laura 1836.

Josiah (1) lived in the house on Spencer road, while his son lived in the tavern. Josiah built a new house where Mr. Newcomb now lives, and William came to live with him. Josiah (1) had four sons and three daughters, viz:

William married Mary Smith, daughter of Miles Smith, a native of N. H. They had 10 children. Sally married William Carey. She had

issue, Caroline (Denison), Selinda, Thomas, Martha and Laura. Hiram married Dolly Congdon. Laura, after Sally died, was married to William Cary (2d wife.) They had one daughter and two sons. Josiah (2) married, 1st, Deborah Wood, and had children, Jerome, Francis, Elijah, Josiah and Lydia. He married 2d, Sabrina Wood and had two sons, Charles and Alfred. Polly married Riley Parker and they had five children, George, Hial, Jane, Orlando and Henry. Henry Parker enlisted in the Civil War and was among the missing after the battle of Bull Run. A comrade saw him fall, but nothing more is known of his fate.

William West, after his return from Killawog, taught school in the Lilly district, in the pioneer school house, near Orsamus Lilly's. He took Rachel and Harriet with him in a one horse wagon each day. He gave liberally towards building the Presbyterian church where now stands the present M. E. church. While at Killawog he became a Presbyterian and he preached in that church after it was completed. Dea. Josiah was an Elder and his sons William, and Orlando, and his granddaughters, Rachel and Harriet West and Caroline Cary were Charter Members. The organization of this church occurred in the school house, in the Lilly district, and baptisms occurred in the waters of the creek which flowed past that school house, near by.

Orlando West was killed by the fall of a tree in the woods west of the village in "Canada," when about 25 years of age.

Josiah (1) had a sister Fanny, who married and settled in the Lake Country near the Ontario. Thomas West and wife, (Molly Joy) parents of Josiah (1) had ten acres of land, where Eli Boardman lived from 1877 to time of his death in April 1900. Thomas West died in 1828 and was buried in the cemetery back of the Baptist church. Josiah (1) set out the orchard where Jerome Alderman lived and died. William, son of Josiah (1) brought apple seeds from their old home in Whitesboro, N. Y., and planted them in a small nursery which he prepared back of the present M. E. parsonage, and later set out an orchard on Spencer road place.

Hiram West lived in a house which he built opposite to where Jerome Alderman lived later on.

Josiah (2) lived in the house where Mr. Roe now lives; and later in a house where Capt. Newell P. Rockwood now lives, just south of the creek which runs thro' the village. He also lived at Conklin, N. Y., a few years and after William (1) removed to Wisconsin, he lived with Josiah (1) at the foot of Cherry Ridge Hill.

Miles Smith, a brother of Mary Smith, whom William West married came to the Creek in 1818 and bought the place now owned by Mrs. Harriet (Hayes) Boardman and Libbie Hayes.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH AT CASTLE CREEK.

In the year 1818, through the labors of Rev. John Lawton, a Home Missionary, a Baptist Church was organized near the present village of Castle Creek, N. Y. The constituent members were Rev. Caleb Hayes, Mrs. Anna Hayes, Deacon Benedict Eldridge, Mrs. Rhoda Eldridge, Lewis Stoughton, James Remmele, Mrs. Lydia Loomis, Deacon Richard Gray, Mrs. Sally Gray, Orlando Parsons and Mrs. Orlando Parsons. Rev. Caleb Hayes was called to be their pastor and this position he held for twenty-six years, living with them, but preaching a part of the time in the school houses within a circuit of ten or fifteen miles. He was both preacher and farmer. At the age of 73 he was feeling physically unable to farther continue his arduous labors and he therefore requested the officers of the church to call to the field a younger man. During his pastorate of twenty-six years there were additions to the church by letter and baptism, from time to time. Among the earlier additions were, Daniel Bishop and wife, Mrs. Hannah Bishop, Lewis Eldridge, Mrs. Bradley (Sarah) Alderman, Mrs. Harriet Gray, Lewis D. Bishop and others of whose names we have no record. It is supposed that up to this time services were held mainly in school houses and dwellings, at least up to 1841, when the Presbyterian church was completed. It is recorded that the Baptist society held meetings there until their own edifice was erected.

The society was first called the Chenango Baptist, then "Third Lisle,"

then "Barker Church," then "Barker and Chenango," and now the "Castle Creek Church."

The minutes of the Baptist Association thus read: "On Sept. 22d, 1824, the Chenango Church met with seven other churches and organized the "Berkshire Baptist Association," which name it retained until 1837, when it was changed to what is now "The Broome and Tioga Association."

The first "Meeting House" was erected at the Village of Castle Creek, in 1844, and Rev. John VanHorn was called to the pastorate, which position he held until about 1848, when he was succeeded by Rev. E. L. Benedict. In 1849 the first parsonage was built. In 1854 Rev. David Leach was pastor and during his pastorate of six years the church was blessed with a glorious revival and many were added to the church. Rev. Ransom A. Washburne was pastor until 1861, when he enlisted as chaplain in the war of '61. Rev. A. J. Chaplin was pastor for a period, which terminated in 1867. Mrs. Chaplin was instrumental in organizing the "Ladies Aid Society," which still continues a useful auxiliary to the church. In 1867 Rev. J. A. Ball became pastor. In the winter of 1869 Rev. E. A. Francis assisted in a series of revival meetings, during which sixteen persons professed conversion and were added to the church.

On March 2d while the meetings were still in progress, the church edifice was burned, but the members with true christian zeal, commenced the work of re-building and in one year from that time, a neat and commodious house, *free of debt*, was dedicated to the service of God. While the new building was in process of erection, Rev. A. P. Merrill, of Union, N. Y., came there three Sabbaths each month and conducted services in the hall over James Bristol's store. His labors were prompted by love of the work and were very acceptable to the society, altho' at this time the church could give him but small remuneration. He continued pastor until 1874, residing here after the first year.

For the next four years, Rev. A. Lull, D. D., was pastor and was loved and respected by all. He was succeeded by Rev. W. L. Goodspeed, who remained two years. Rev. J. W.



Starkweather next came and remained until 1882. Next was Rev. C. H. Moxie, who was succeeded by Rev. G. P. Turnbull, who remained four years. During the last year of his pastorate revival meetings were held in the "Rink" by members of the "Salvation Army," resulting in the conversion of quite a number, who were added to the church. Mr. Turnbull soon thereafter resigned his pastorate and Rev. A. M. Cole was called July 1, 1887, who remained for five years. His departure was regretted by all. During his pastorate the parsonage was remodelled. For two or three years following, Rev. J. W. Cole was pastor. His successor was Rev. George Pope, who is the present pastor.

A new barn replaced the old one, on the parsonage lot, in 1900. The church of 1903 is in a prosperous condition, considering that its membership has been greatly reduced within the past fifteen years, or so, by the death of many esteemed and useful members, most of whom were well advanced in years, gone from the church militant to join the church triumphant in Heaven. Among these were, Deacon Apollos N. Phelps, Nathaniel Congdon, Deacon Alonzo Swift, Mrs. Sarah Alderman, Walter Cary and wife, and their two daughters. A large number have from time to time, removed to other localities.

Deacons elected: In 1818, Benedict Eldridge and Richard Gray. In 1845, Lewis D. Bishop. In 1853, Michael Smithers. In 1866, Alonzo Swift and Ambrose Gray. In 1879, Apollos N. Phelps. In 1894, Talcott Alderman. Lewis D. Bishop held the office of deacon until his removal to Newark Valley, N. Y., in 1861. He assisted in building both the Baptist and Presbyterian church edifices.

Returning to the meeting of the Association in 1824, a total membership of 489 members were then reported, in eight churches. In 1897 the total membership was stated to be 4678. In 1824 Deacon John Congdon was a "messenger" from the Chenango Baptist church. In these modern days they are called "delegates." At that time a "confession of faith, and a platform was adopted, which gave no uncertain sound, showing that they were men

who had beliefs founded on the word of God alone, and having no sympathy with the more modern idea that it makes no difference what a person believes, provided he be sincere." It is to be regretted that we have no record of those ministers who sometimes officiated in the absence of a settled pastor. Elder Cyrus Gates of Maine, N. Y., was frequently called to assist in revival services; also to conduct funeral services, etc. It is stated that Elder Benedict first preached from the text, "I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me." The shortest prayer of which I have record, made by any pastor of this church, was that of Elder Washburne, who at the close of some special church meeting, arose and prayed thus: "*O Lord make us all just right—Amen.*"

\* \*

The material for this sketch, imperfect as it is, was furnished by Mrs. Caleb (West) Hayes, Jr., now Mrs. Harriet Boardman, and Mrs. Juliaette (Alderman) Rockwood, residents of Castle Creek.

I am sure the latter named will pardon me, if I here quote from her letter. "I can recollect a goodly number of those earlier members, many of whom were laid away in the old cemetery, just back of the church, others in the new cemetery on the hill, east of the village, and yet others in divers places, far and near. There were Rev. Caleb Hayes and wife, Rev. David Leach and wife, and then the venerable, white haired Lewis Stoughton,—“old father Stoughton”—he was called, and Lewis Eldridge; he was then lame and very old, Deacon Richard Gray and wife, and good old Uncle Daniel Bishop and wife Hannah. I hope to meet them all again, in the “sweet bye and bye.” It is a precious thought, my dear mother, just as she was leaving her loved ones, asked me to sing to her, “In the sweet bye and bye we shall meet on that beautiful shore.”

In the early days horses and wagons were few and far between, and people went to “meeting” largely riding after ox teams and carts, or on foot, “where there is a will there is a way,” and they were glad to go any way, any distance, and meet in school houses, or more often in log houses or barns.

We, of the present day, can never realize what our dear parents and old time neighbors underwent in this wilderness land and I often feel we do not fully appreciate our comparatively golden privileges of the present time, nor are we half thankful enough, that we were born and reared under their wise christian teaching and guidance. They are gone, yet they left behind them a noble example of fortitude, firmness and christian character, a heritage which we should most dearly prize. "These early toilers in the Master's Vineyard," one and all, who have passed to their reward—will not they oft' recall their privations and struggles in this field? And will not this recollection add greatly to their joys in the "Celestial City?" "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord."

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CASTLE CREEK.

*Mr. Julius W. Lilly, Chicago, Ill.*

MY DEAR COUSIN:—You ask if I can send some items pertaining to the history of the Presbyterian church of Castle Creek? Yes, I can, perhaps with greater accuracy than any other one, because before me lies the only record book of its session, with the autograph of all its clerks signed to their minutes of official doing. Does any one wonder how this book came to be so far from home? The answer is very simple; after the death of my father, Orsamus Lilly, many of his old letters and papers were given to me and among them was this church record. The communion set bought by the godly women of the church was early sent to Albany, Kansas, to the church which received several of its members from the old hive. When the Albany church outgrew the set, it was sent still farther west to serve a missionary church just starting. Of all the names ever recorded on the church roll, who were not dismissed by letter, is there one now living except my mother, Mrs. Almira B. Lilly? If there is, who is it? Several who were once members are alive but those I know have had letters to other churches or places. A goodly number of the Presbyterian families attended the First Presbyterian church at Binghamton, N. Y., an eight mile journey. Would not the present gen-

eration think it quite an undertaking to attend services at such long range? In 1832, Orsamus Lilly, Henry Lilly and Arunah Hall were elders in that church.

It is nearly seventy years since the record began by saying that application was made to the presbytery of Tioga for the organization of certain members of the First church of the town of Chenango, into a new church on Castle Creek, and a committee was appointed to organize the church.

This committee was the pastor of the Binghamton Presbyterian church, Rev. L. D. Howell and Rev. Gould. "Agreeably to the appointment, the committee of Presbytery attended, at 11 o'clock A. M., on Tuesday, Dec. 3d. 1833, in the school house near Arunah Hall's (the old plank house across from the big elm.) Rev. L. D. Howell preached from the text, "Quit you like men." A certificate of dismission from First church of the town of Chenango was presented by the following named persons: 1-\*Eunice Lilly, 2-\*Deborah Lilly, Jr., 3-\*Renben Lilly, 4-\*Sally Lilly, 5-\*Hannah Lilly, 6-\*Arunah Hall Lilly, 7-\*Henry Lilly, 8-Anna Lilly, 9-\*Jonathan Lilly, 10-Foster Lilly, Sr. 11-Deborah Lilly, Sr., 12-\*Orsamus Lilly, 13-Louisa Lilly, 14-William West, 15-Rachel West, 16-Harriet West, 17-Josiah West, 18-Orlando West, 19-Caroline Cary, 20-Laura Cary, 21-Polly West Parker, 22-Charles F. Holmes, 23-John Milton Dimmick, 24-Anna Dimmick, 25-Mary B. Dimmick, 26-Fanny (Stowell) Dimmick, 27-Elizabeth M. Dimmick, 28-Smith Spencer, 29-Arunah Hall, 30-Achsah (Lyon) Hall, 31-David L. Hall, 32-Sally M. Hall, 33-Tidall Knapp, 34-Abigail P. Carter, 35-Esther J. Carter, 36-Russell Wilcox, 37-Chloe Wilcox, 38-John W. Wilcox, 39-Anna Wilcox, 40-Alexander White, 41-Margaret Leonard, 42-Parley Lee, 43-Maria Lee, 44-Amanda Stowell, Amanda Dimmick, Orin Wilcox and William Wilcox joined soon after.

\* \* \*

First officers: Deacons, Josiah West, Arunah Hall; Elders, Josiah

\*Children of Foster and Deborah (Hall) Lilly. Six sons, three daughters and two daughters-in-law; thirteen members of one family. The eldest son, Alvah, was at that date a Presbyterian minister.

West, William West, Orsamus Lilly, Henry Lilly, Arunah Hall; Trustees, John M. Dimmick, Foster Lilly, Alexander White.

\* \*

Officers were then examined, ordained and "set apart by prayer and services closed by an exhortation suited to the occasion."

"Before the congregation dispersed it was resolved by the session to take immediate steps for obtaining the labors of a minister and for that purpose a subscription paper was signed with much liberality, both by members of the new church and by brethren from Binghamton, who were present." In the spring of 1833, Rev. F. Janes and — Woodruff preached occasionally in the Lilly district school house and soon after Rev. Peter Lockwood of Binghamton officiated at the same place.

The officers of the new church must have been very prompt, as in about a month they had secured a minister, as we know by a diary kept by Mrs. Orsamus (Louisa) Lilly, which reads, "Jan. 12, 1834, Rainy day: Rev. F. Janes began preaching at upper school house. Morning sermon from text, 'Who is on the Lord's side?' In afternoon from Romans 3-15. All the family attended."

About 1836, Rev. Mr. Burt was pastor for a short time and Rev. Marcus Ford of Binghamton, preached for some time in the lower school house. Services were held perhaps alternately at either school house but official business seems to have been done in the lower school house, as Oct. 27, 1838, (we copy) "Made choice of Samuel Mills, William West, and David Ingersoll as a committee to say where in their judgment a meeting house ought to be built for the best good of the church and society in this place." Said committee decided "that it is the best place on the south-east corner of William West's land." This meeting was "at the school house at Mr. Lilly's and adjourned to meet at the school house by Mr. West's." This was near the site where the church was to be built, where it still stands. This report was adopted and a subscription paper was started to raise funds to build, in 1839. The building committee were William West, Samuel Mills

and Jonathan Lilly. At this same meeting, "a committee was appointed to issue a subscription paper for a singing school at the school house by Deacon West's and to hire and pay for a teacher. This committee was Sylvester Mills, Orlando West, and David L. Hall." We wonder whom they hired? Church music received much attention, and tradition says the music at the dedication, about two years later was well worth hearing. The tunes were pitched by a tuning fork and very early a bass viol was used in the choir. Did George Bowen play on it for a time? Cornelia Nash, Laura Cary, Lucy Lilly, Amanda Mills and Mercy Dimmick were in that choir, while some of the male singers were Orlando West, Charles F. Holmes, David L. Hall and Alexander White. Choir rehearsals were mostly at private houses and when at the school house, each singer took a candle, which was placed in a tin holder run into the planks. The new church grew slowly: it was a big undertaking, and I think the "old chapel" was for a time the only other church building between Binghamton and Whitney's Point. Many of the subscriptions were in work and more in lumber, but "the people had a mind to work" and at last it was ready. Just the date is not given, but it was probably about 1841. Rev. S. W. Leonard was now pastor, and it is said that Rev. D. D. Gregory preached the sermon. Sunday Schools had been maintained each summer, resting in the winter. The modern church reverses the order. There were always two long sermons, one in the morning then Sunday School and a chance to eat a cold lunch, then a long afternoon service. Sometimes the devout women of the church held a "private" prayer meeting in the session room over the hall, then slipped around to see Mrs. Mills or Mrs. Deacon West and get a piece of pie and cup of tea, but as a rule only a few cookies for the children were taken.

In the year 1845 the great west began to attract settlers from Castle Creek and for a few years the western fever was epidemic and took off a large number of the members of the Presbyterian church. Just before this several active members had left to join

the Baptist church, among them William West and his family and in 1846 they removed to Wisconsin, as did Henry and Reuben Lilly and their families. The Lees, Wilcox and other families to Illinois. The Eber, Hiram and Festus Dennison and families, Harvey and Daniel Mills and families, the Carys and others went to Michigan and in all about forty persons went west about this time. A further loss occurred in the death of Samuel Mills, an esteemed and faithful officer as long as he lived. The last resident pastor was Rev. Joseph Davidson, who had been pastor for some time. He lived in the house where John Cunningham lived and died. Owing to the reduced membership, services could be maintained only part of the time, and Rev. Powell of Chenango Forks, supplied the pulpit. He was a man of great spiritual fervor and I do not think I ever listened to more solemn exhortations. Rev. William T. Doubleday, now a resident of Binghamton, was on the Doubleday farm about 1850, for the benefit of his health. Some of his New York friends came there to summer with him. The prayer meetings he held in the old plank school house are still remembered and were a blessing to all who attended them.

The Baptists held meetings in the Presbyterian edifice, while their church was being built, and soon the Methodists made arrangements to occupy the pulpit one-half the time. When it was built most of the heads of families had a pew which they bought, not rented, and these seats they occupied, no matter who preached. The church never rallied, as the west still called for its young people and for some years the only preaching was once a month, first by Rev. Peter Lockwood, of Binghamton, and later by Rev. Harvey Smith, of Maine, N. Y. The only clerks that kept the record for thirty years were William West, Henry Lilly, Arunah Hall and David J. Stiles. Simeon Stiles, John Conrad, Noah Bowker, Thaddeus Seely with their families were valuable members for a time and the history would be very incomplete without a mention of Mrs. Fanny Dimmick, who could truly say, "I love thy house, O God," for a more faithful or regular member never

was enrolled. The last entry in the book was dated Jan. 1861, and was a letter of dismission to the church in Albany, Kansas, of Achsah L. Lilly. A few months later, the clerk, David J. Stiles enlisted for service in the Civil War and never returned. He knew in whom he trusted and his reward was sure! Rev. Peter Lockwood often selected as his Scripture lesson, "Fear not *little* flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," and it used to seem untrue, but later I learned that Christ himself said, "My kingdom is not of this world."

So let us leave the history of the extinct church which existed a generation, until the time when all the records are finished, at the end of time, for only then can its influence be measured. To most of them already we hope the welcome from their Savior has been. "Well done good and faithful servant."

ACHSAH LILLY SLOSSON.

Houston, Texas, 1903.

#### THE LILLY DISTRICT METHODIST PIONEER CHAPEL.

As early as 1833 a Methodist Chapel was built on the present grave yard lot, just north of the Amos Wilcox farm house. This was the very first church structure on the Creek, and some of those who attended there were the Hawkes, French, Dunham, Page, St. John, Livermore, Elwell, Lee, and Austin families. Tyrus Page was for many years the class leader. Some of the early officiating ministers were Larnard Livermore, Charles Pitts, Chester Pease. Elders King, Elwell and Burlingame, Asa Brooks, father of Frank Brooks and Mrs. Delia Brooks French, third wife of Ira French; Rev. P. S. Worden, who for many years resided in Binghamton and recently died there at a good old age; and Rev. Enos Puffer, a brother of Moses Puffer, the blacksmith. He was licensed to preach about 1841, and was appointed on the "Old Broome Circuit" in 1845. From that time until his death in 1872, he was constantly stationed in that immediate vicinity. He was a member of the Legislature in 1857. He was a very earnest, energetic and *forceful* preacher and withal a "mighty hunter." He and Dr. Carr



constituted many a hunting party of two! About 1850 the "class" was divided and the chapel was taken down and rebuilt at Glen Castle, some two miles southward. Daniel Lee helped build this chapel and also helped move and rebuild it. Those who lived north of the old site, then attended services at Castle Creek.

#### THE CASTLE CREEK METHODIST EPISCOPAL SOCIETY.

It is to be regretted that the earliest records of this society cannot be found, and as a consequence, cannot here be recorded. The best that can be done, will be very imperfect. The earliest date recorded, appears to have been 1843, when "Classes" had been formed—one at Castle Creek, one Barker, (probably Hyde Settlement) others at Adams Street, Poplar Ridge and various other localities, unknown to the narrator. The earliest record which can be found, states that "The first Quarterly meeting for Broome Circuit" was held at the chapel in Barker, N. Y., Oct. 28, 1843. The Rev. V. M. Coryell was the Presiding Elder. Members present—Enos Puffer, Preacher in Charge; Larnard Livermore, Local Preacher; Henry Pease, Lambert Seward and John Stoughton, Exhorters; Stephen Foote, William Hamblin, William Hall and John Stoughton, Leaders. We will suppose that the "Leaders" were those who were appointed to lead the meetings of the various Classes, and we also suppose that these Quarterly meetings were attended by the members and others in unusual numbers.

Stewards were appointed at this meeting and appointment made for the next Quarterly meeting to be held at the Chapel, Castle Creek." We suppose this referred to the one in the Lilly district, as that was then the only one on the Creek. These various "classes" were united under what at that time was called, "Broome Circuit." Enos Puffer is the first "Preacher in Charge" mentioned in the book of records, and Larnard Livermore first "Local Preacher," but there certainly must have been others who were earlier. Rev. Charles Pitts and Rev. — Burlingame were early preachers, and Solon and Servillus Stocking, the

latter two probably of Binghamton. Chenango Forks and probably Kattelville were at one time included in this Circuit. The Preacher in Charge went from place to place, wherever there were classes, to preach. Enos Puffer was Preacher in Charge 1843 to 1845. He was succeeded by King Elwell; then Enos Puffer was Local Preacher. Then Rev. Thomas D. Wire in 1847 was Preacher in Charge.

We now find recorded that "pursuant to public notice give as the Statute requires, a meeting of the male members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of due and lawful age, was held in the Presbyterian Church at Castle Creek, N. Y., August 30, 1847, for the purpose of organizing a corporate Religious Society. Rev. Thomas D. Wire called the meeting to order, and opened by prayer. Rev. Thomas D. Wire and Samuel Hawkes were chosen to preside over the meeting. It was voted that this Society shall be called "The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Castle Creek. Voted that this church shall have six trustees and the following named persons were duly elected: Enos Puffer, Edson Blair, Isaac Bowen, Isaac Livermore, Lorenzo Brooks and Samuel Hawkes. The meeting then adjourned until August 30, 1848." The records are not in such shape that we can now record *who the original members* of this organization were. According to the best judgment of the compiler, *some* of these were as follows: Rev. Larnard Livermore, Isaac Livermore, Chauncey Livermore, Martha Livermore, George Bowen, Mrs. Margaret Bowen, Isaac Bowen, Samuel Hawkes, Mrs. Robie Hawkes, Nelson Dunham, Mrs. Nancy Dunham, Hannah Livermore, Abigail Bishop, Israel P. Alderman, Mrs. Caroline Alderman, S. Abigail Alderman, Bradley Jerome Alderman, Mrs. Marinda Alderman, James Gaylord, Mrs. Sabrina Gaylord, Edson Blair, Mrs. Caroline (Pease) Blair, Alex. White, Mrs. Margaret White, Tyrus Page, Mrs. Fanny Page and Chester Pease. In the Record names are divided off into classes: Castle Creek Class, Hyde Street Class, East Hill Class, etc., and again, these records were revised from time to time, and many had died and removed to other places, which renders

it impossible to determine just which ones were original members.

The first parsonage was built about 1848. In 1849 R. S. Rose was Pastor in Charge and J. Whitham in 1851. In 1852, R. Ingalls, with H. T. Avery as Junior Preacher. In 1853-4, J. M. Grimes; William Silsbee, '55; A. C. Sperry, '57; William Round, '59; George A. Severson, '61; C. E. Taylor '62; E. Siblee, '64; W. B. Thomas, '66; A. W. Loomis, '68; N. S. DeWitt, '71; C. V. Arnold, '73; T. Burgess, '76; George A. Place, '78; D. Personens, '81; W. R. Cochran, '84; T. R. Warnock, '87; V. A. Bailey, '90, who died soon after coming; C. H. Newing, '91; H. G. Blair, '93; C. M. Olmstead, '95; C. D. Shepard, '99; and S. E. Hunt, the present pastor, 1901.

In 1868 the present edifice was erected on the site of the old one,\* and dedicated free of debt. Rev. J. M. Grimes and his good wife are well remembered by many, as during the winter he was pastor a glorious revival occurred, resulting in the conversion of many young people as well as many heads of families, most of whom, if not all, continued faithful to the church and to their God—some have gone hither "to mansions in the skies," others still living here and elsewhere. In the early years of the Society, two ministers were often appointed, perhaps owing to so many scattered appointments in the vicinity, but usually only one was resident. In the early history of the M. E. church, here, it labored under the same disadvantages as do all churches in a new country, but God blessed it abundantly. Would that we of to-day might see the wondrous revivals and conversions which occurred in the former days. It would seem to be the case, that there is not now one-half the *spiritual life* in the churches, there was 50 years ago."

And here our brief and imperfect sketch endeth with regrets that a more able historian had not, many years ago, had the earlier records and put

them into print, or at least preserved them, for future use—even the present time. And wishing the church great prosperity and success in winning many souls unto Christ, we will say—*adieu!*

#### CLOSING EXERCISES OF SCHOOL IN DISTRICT NO. 15, (CASTLE CREEK.)

(Copied from the "*Standard*" Binghamton,  
N. Y.)

*Mr. Editor:*

"As your paper is somewhat devoted to educational interests, we wish to report the closing exercises of the school in Lilly district, near Castle Creek, which occurred April 7, 1857. The examination, by the teacher, Miss Achsah L. Lilly, was a thorough one and the ready replies of her pupils gave evidence that they were at *home* in their studies. We have not space to particularize—all were good—but the class in history deserve special mention for their thorough knowledge of dates, as well as incidents and facts connected with the early history of 'Giant Occident.'

Classes were heard in geography, arithmetic, grammar, etc., nor was reading neglected. And just here we wish to say that most of the scholars were *good* readers; indeed, we did not discover a *bad* reader in the school. At the close of the examination, which occupied the forenoon and part of the afternoon, we were treated with an intellectual repast, in the way of declamation, colloquies and compositions, the whole interspersed with appropriate and withal, excellent singing. Though unused to public speaking, the lads acquitted themselves nobly. The older ones were not behind.

Several young ladies, who took part in the colloquies, we would commend for speaking very distinctly. 'Mrs. Candle' gave the old gentleman a very handsome curtain lecture. The 'Garland,' read by Misses French and Cary, contained many good things. Some of the articles were quite poetical. We hope the *lost* will ere long be found. After brief remarks by Lyman B. Smith and L. R. Elliott, the company reluctantly sought their homes, well pleased with their entertainment. Bright eyes, which shall, ere long,

\*NOTE. Some time before the Presbyterians ceased to hold services, the two societies arranged that each should occupy the edifice one-half the time and when the Presbyterians no longer held *any* meetings, it became the M. E. Church, perhaps as a "heritage" from its sister society.



grow dim with age, will look back upon that day as an oasis in the desert of life. Such gatherings strengthen the ties of friendship, and encourages both teacher and scholars. Let us have more of them, even in the country." "ONE PRESENT."

NOTE 1—This was doubtless written by Mr. Elliott, who some time ago passed away, at his home in Kansas. He was a very worthy and useful citizen. He was much interested in Sunday School work.

NOTE 2—That history class was the pride of the teacher's heart and at the close of the examination, when the last expected question was answered, she asked one they were not looking for. She had asked "who was just inaugurated president? Answer--- "James Buchanan, who was elected last November over John C. Fremont." As she closed the book, she asked, "Who will be the next president?" Instantly came the answer—"John C. Fremont," and the audience cheered. This shows the sentiment of the district in regard to the young, defeated, Republican party, which did elect the next president—Abraham Lincoln, and his successors for many years, but who would then have dared prophecy the sad events so soon to imperil our beloved country? "The veil that hides the future is woven by mercy's hand."

As far as memory goes, this is the roster of that famous history class:

Francis M., Mary, Ellen and Clement French, Alonzo and Martha White, Libbie and Jennie Cary, Eva Alderman, DeEtte Smith, Edwin Lee, Francis M. and Lucius Bishop, Orlando St. John, Emery, Eunice, Lewis and Julius W. Lilly.

How many still live to make history and how many have passed on?

Most all the "girls" have borne other names for many years.

\* \*

From the Binghamton *Republican*. "Castle Creek.—From an inhabitant of this place, we learn that the school in the Lilly district, taught by Miss Achsah L. Lilly, closed March 6, 1858. The report of the exercises, which included compositions, declamations,

colloquies, etc., is very flattering, and shows conclusively the advantage of competent and experienced instructors in our country schools, over raw and incompetent tyros. We congratulate Miss Lilly on her success."—*Editor's Educational Department*.

FROM ALSON CONGDON, SON OF NATHANIEL.

LONG BEACH, Cal., Aug. 15, 1903.

J. W. Lilly--Dear Sir:

Being a subscriber to the REPORTER, I have read your "Annals" and have been much interested in them. I have known your whole family from your grandfather down to yourself. I remember when you were born. It is said that I was born the same day your Uncle Henry's oldest daughter was. If so, I don't remember it. I have heard all three of your uncles preach. I was present when Orsamus Lilly was married to Almira Brigham. Regarding our family, I cannot tell you much of the ancient history, but will give you what I can from memory.

John Congdon was born in Vermont in 1767. He lived there for a long time, having a family of seven sons and five daughters. After his older children had married, they all removed to Silver Lake, Pa., on to the Dr. Rose place. After remaining there a few years, they removed to Binghamton. A few years after, John, Sr., removed to the Whitney-Conklin farm, some two miles northward. He was on that place during the memorable "cold year" of 1816. This is the only date which I have, of his early migrations. He removed from thence, to what is now Glen Castle, down by the French mills, and from thence to Dimmick Hill, where he bargained for land which his son, Nathaniel, owned, later on. John's sons, Joseph, Ezra, and John, Jr., also went up there and purchased land, and made some improvements, but soon sold out and returned to Binghamton, where they resided for the balance of their lives. John Sr., died Sept. 13, 1849, aged 82 years. Himself and wife were both buried on his farm. The names of other early settlers of Dimmick Hill and vicinity, as I recollect them, were as follows: Nathan Pratt, Hiram West, Bethuel Brooks, Samuel and

Jonas Brooks, David, James and Reuben Eaton, John and Sylvanus Dimmick, Seth Stowell, Mr. Carter, Nathan Stratton, Linus Smith, Parley Lee, \*John Wilcox, Newell Bancroft, Eli Elwell, Mr. Lamoreaux, Lent Johnson, Mr. Gibson. All of the above named were there upwards of 70 years ago.

Later comers, nearly in the order mentioned were as follows: Samuel Judd, Mr. Taber, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Matteson, Calvin Shepard, Sylvester St. John, Perce Elwell, Sylvanus Judd, Albert, Judson and Boswell West, Milo Isbell, Thomas French, Jr., Peter Hilliens, John Payne, Levi Winfield, Mr. Webb, Wynus, John and Joseph Conrad, Jesse Heller, Isaac Bates, Horace Treadwell, Thadens Seeley. Nearly all these lived about there, over 50 years ago.

The first teacher which I had was Miss Phoebe Lamoreaux, who married Franklin French. Other teachers were Rachel West, Sylvia Thomas, Mary Johnson, Harriet Stratton, Amanda Dimmick and Alonzo Freeman. This finished my school days at the old pioneer log school house. My next schooling was in the new district, called the log cabin. Some of the teachers were Jane Temple, Eunice Temple, Triphena Dow, Julia Judd, Martha West, Cornelia Nash, Alvira Dennison, Lucy Lilly and Harriet Bullock. In the new house at Dimmick Hill—Cyrus Carter, Mr. Moxley, Alfred Pease, Laura Cary and Frank Brooks. I did not attend more than half of these schools. I fail to recall the names of other teachers of those olden days.

I was born on the old Congdon farm, Dimmick Hill, in Sept. 1827; lived on the same place until I was 35, then removed to Iowa, where I lived for 16 years; then removed to Kansas, where I staid for 21 years; spent one summer in Colorado, when I removed to my present abode, Long Beach, Cal. (Los Angeles-co.) In 1897, on account of failing health, I commenced a search for the best place to live and in my judgment this place is most excellent and I am satisfied here. If you can make use of this information, you are very welcome to it.

Yours truly, ALSON CONGDON.

Now living at St. Charles, Ill. in his 94th year.

## Some Former Preachers.

REV. BETHUEL BROOKS

used to preach on the "Broome Circuit," which included nearly all of Broome-co., and he had one appointment in the old (first) Court House. He went on horseback and would be gone from home three weeks at a time, and as "Uncle John" Brooks says, "leave me to do the chores." He used to preach in the old building burned down in the Whitney's Point fire, where the Post Office now stands. His son used to hitch up the old roan horse and drive his father to the Point and hear him preach.

Bethuel was obliged to leave his wife, who was an invalid and unable to walk for 35 years. From a spinal trouble, her limbs wasted so greatly, that her feet were like those of a two-year old child, or a Chinese Mandarin's wife. Her son made her shoes. The thirteen year old boy, who once went to Preston, N. Y., to bring her sister, a maiden lady, to help them move, reached home again under difficulties. It was the finest of sleighing, when he set out to go on his journey, but on returning, the bridge at Chenango Forks over the Tioughnioga was gone. Other delayed travellers were also here, at the hotel, consisting of Amos Wilcox, with his bride and the bridal party, who were David Hall and lady and Obed Dimmick and lady.

They were all advised to hasten down to the "New Bridge," (Chenango Bridge) which they did. On coming to the bridge, the boy went ahead and the others followed, as quickly as possible, and none too quick, as when they were barely across, a cake of ice half a mile long, struck a pier and down the river went the bridge. It being winter the "tow path" was very icy and it was a perilous road. Had their conveyances slid a little too far in either direction, the chances were good for being immersed in the water of the canal on the one side, or the river on the opposite side.

Mr. Brooks formed the first M. E. Churches at Marathon, Yorkshire and Whitney's Point, and did a grand pioneer work all along and around the wide circuits, yet he said in his later years—never having belonged to the "Conference," that he had always

been used as a "toggle for a chain." He died at the age of 85 at the home of his son, Leroy, at Maine, N. Y.

Of his ten children, all were singers: all but three were school teachers, Frank holding a State Certificate, and three had licenses to preach. For all Mrs. Brooks was an invalid, she was a fine entertainer and all the children were crazy to go there and stay with grandma, for weeks at a time. One evening she was left alone with her granddaughter, Ellen, and their candle light went out. She said, "I'll fix it for you," and sent Ellen around the house to find a saucer of lard and some wicking, and told stories in the mean time, laughing till the tears ran down her cheeks.

Chester Pease was a local preacher of the M. E. Church and he would make his appointments like this. "If there doesn't come a rafting freshet, I'll be here such a day." If there *came* a rafting freshet, he would have to be *going down the river*. It is related that he once said to Larnard Livermore, "Now Brother Livermore, you *sit down* and let *me* gab."

#### JOHN REMMEELEE.

Another minister whose noble figure and forcible preaching will always be remembered by those who heard him, was John Remmelee, a local preacher, but associated with and much esteemed by Levi Pitts, Euos Puffer, Elder Grimes, Elder Avery and Bro. Silsby. Mr. Cochrane preached his funeral sermon.

Mr. Remmelee was a great friend of children, and a well known lady, who was often at his house when a little girl, states that she never saw nor heard anything inconsistent with his profession. He never preached for pay but took thankfully whatever was given him, which was considerable, as he had many friends.

Graves Collins gave him a home with ten acres of land which, there being no writings, reverted to the family upon Mr. Collins's death. Mr. Remmelee always worked as a farmer and his work was well worth having. He was very often called upon to preach at funerals.

The older people living at Castle Creek, Glen Castle, Dunham Hill, Hogg Settlement, Swift Settlement,

Hyde-st., King-st and Adams-st., will recollect Brother Remmelee's magnificent figure, loud voice and true religion.

There is a legend remaining, of a man in these parts being at work in the woods, chopping, one day, when three Indians suddenly appeared on the scene, and bade him go with them. He said, all right, he would do so as soon as he had split the log he was working on, and if they were in a hurry, they might help him. So he drove his wedge into the log and told them to put their hands into the break and help pull it open. After they had done so, he struck the wedge just right and out it flew and caught their fingers like a vice, when he unflinchingly used his axe to cut off their heads. This, if true, would seem to have been a cruel mode of repaying their helpfulness, but as it prevented their killing pale faces, we must consider it as the act of a hero, as well as a great strategist. Can anybody tell us more about this tradition?

During the cold year of 1816, already mentioned, it is said that when Mrs. Clement French put up school dinners for her children, there was nothing to be had but johnny-cake and even *that* was scarce, and they remembered her crying over it many a time because she had no more for their lunches.

#### ORSAMUS AND LOUISA LILLY.

UNDER THE "BALM OF GILEAD'S" )  
OLD HOMESTEAD, Aug. 26, 1903. }

"Soon the places that now know us will know us no more forever: help us Lord so that when that time comes, we may go with joy and not with grief."

This reflection and petition formed a part of the prayer that was daily offered for more than one-half a century by Orsamus Lilly in the low house under the big Balm of Gilead trees beside the murmuring brook.

This family altar was erected in 1826, when he brought from Hawley, Mass., his slight young wife, Louisa Lilly. She had received advantages beyond many women of her day and was endowed with an active, cheerful, helpful nature and entered into pioneer life with zeal and enthusiasm.

Her parents and family in Massachusetts were devout Methodists in the days before Methodism had lost its early fervor, and tho' with her husband, she joined the Presbyterians she retained the stamp of girlhood so much that a Methodist sister once exclaimed, "Oh, Mrs. Lilly what a good Methodist you would have made!"

This new home soon began to shelter the homeless, and Charles F. Holmes (now of Kaneville, Ill.) at the age of nine was taken and treated as a son. This lad had been ill treated by the world and it required love and patience to make him the loving good man he became. An entry in the young wife's diary says, "I am praying for help and patience to teach Charley right," but she had her reward.

During the first year of married life this young couple adopted Laura Cary, whose mother, Sally West Cary, had died leaving several children to the father, William Cary. Little Laura was only three years of age, a beautiful, frail child, whose childhood was saddened by suffering and illness but she outgrew her afflictions, and became a faithful, loving woman, a comfort to all. Lucy (later Mrs. Newton Hand) was the first child born, under that has since echoed the first cry of so many. Next came a winsome little maid named Achsah Louisa, whose death by scarlet fever, at the age of three, was the first grief of the household, which often included many who needed a temporary home. Next year after this sorrow another daughter was born and given the name of the last one. She is now Mrs. William B. Slosson. Then came a delicate blue eyed boy, Emery Silas, now living in Sabetha, Kansas, where also lives the next daughter, named Eunice Amanda, now Mrs. Edmund F. Pug-sley.

Never robust, the wife failed in health, and when her baby girl was two years old she cheerfully, trustfully went to her Savior, believing he would care for the children she had so faithfully trained. She had taught even the little ones to go to the loving Father for help in every time of need and none of them ever forgot it. Her last day here was Sunday and she in-

sisted that the older children go to church as usual. In the evening Deacon Arunah Hall and wife and Deacon Samuel Mills and wife came in and with the family held a last prayer service. Then the children were put to bed to awaken motherless in the morning. The father then, as he said in later years, "tried to be both father and mother." The older children, Charles, Laura and Lucy were trusty and efficient, and the family life moved on for a year and a half, when the father persuaded Almira Brigham, a Massachusetts young woman to help him carry the burden. She consented and nobly, faithfully did she do her part.

They were married in the Presbyterian church by Rev. Foster Lilly, and the home received an efficient, capable head, who still lives where she came as a bride, Sept. 1843. A few years later Cynthia Lilly Ralyea died and her son, Cyrus F., was added to the mother's brood. In 1848 a second son, Lyman Thomas, was gladly welcomed. He now lives at La Junta, Col. Florence Arvilla came next, a frail, beautiful child, who, in a little more than a year was taken away. The youngest daughter, Martha Almira, (now Mrs. Henry M. Foller,) came next and still reside in the old home. She and her husband deserve the reward of those who care for their parents, as they have kept the home till their children are grown, and now the house rings with the music of their grandchildren's voices. The old house before it was grown to its present size, enjoyed the advantages of travel, as it was built on the old road by the creek near the S. E. corner of the flat where an old well and apple trees were long to be found. It was moved to the *new* or present road about 1835, and was then added to and Henry Lilly and family shared the shelter until their house on the Phelps place was done. A few years later, when Jonathan Lilly married Hannah Davis, they lived there while their new home was made ready. About 1845, Harrington Austin and Sarah Jane Brigham (sister of Almira Lilly) were married in this home and for some time lived in a part of it, and some of their children were born



There. Charles F. Holmes, his mother and wife, Mary J. Seward, also occupied a part of this hospitable home, and perhaps others now out of mind.

During the late 50's the Brigham family, occupying Mrs. Lilly's farm, "Canada Castle," was broken up by the death of the father, Naham Brigham and daughter, Louisa. so Orsamus and family went there for three years to care for Mrs. Martha Brigham and the "Castle". The old home farm then was rented for that time to Marcus Dayton, who married Martha Ann Brigham. When the Lilly family returned they brought old Mrs. Brigham back with them and until her death, at 96 years of age, this was her home

The three oldest daughters, Lucy, Achsah and Eunice married while living at the "Castle," but the dear old home has kept its doors wide open to them, their children and grandchildren ever since Orsamus Lilly went to his reward at the age of 81, a good man with the respect of all.

"With long life will I satisfy them and show them the joys of my salvation."  
A L. S.

### Michael White Recalls Much Early History.

HYDEVILLE, Oct 1903.

*Mrs. J. W. Lilly:*

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with your request, to "draw on my memory of the olden times in and about Castle Creek, and also a little genealogical history of myself and ancestors," that you may put it with your articles published in the REPORTER, I will endeavor to do so. And the last shall be first, as in order to give an account of the earliest settlers it will be necessary to consult some of their descendants of the fourth, and perhaps fifth generation. As for myself, I am of Puritan descent. My ancestors came over in the *Mayflower*, and Peregrine White was the first white child born in New England, and he was born on board the vessel before they landed. I cannot give the links of descent farther back than my great grandfather. I had a book, entitled the *New England Chronology*, which gave the names of all the passengers,

and was a journal of the company for several years, but unfortunately it was burned with the rest of my library in a schoolhouse, where I was teaching, sixty-nine years ago. I have never seen but one other, and that was owned by Mason Whiting, of Binghamton, over sixty years ago; would that I knew into whose hands it has fallen.

I do not know the date of the birth or death of my great grandfather, Johnathan White. I have in my possession some of his writings among them is a Bill of Sale of a negro girl, of which the following is a copy:

"Know all men by these present that I, Seth Johnson, of Lebanon, in the county of Windham, for, and in consideration of the sum of fifty pounds, Lawful money to me in hand paid by Capt. Johnathan White of sd. Town & county. Have therefore and do hereby sell, passover and Convey unto the said Johnathan White, his heirs & Assigns, One Certain Negro Girl Named Philli's, about sixteen or seventeen Years of Age, to be & remain a Slave during her sd. Philli's Natural Life, To hold & possess the sd. Negro Girl as a slave, free & clear of all claims and Demands whatsoever from any other person or persons—Hereby Covenanting that the said Negro Girl is sound & well for aught is known to me the sd. Johnson.

In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my Hand This 8th day of July A Dom 1762.

Signed & D'd in presence of

Jon. Trumble

Jon. Trumble jr. Seth Johnson."

This Bill of Sale written 141 years ago is as plain and easy to read as if written yesterday.

I do not know the date of birth or death of my grandfather, Enoch White, son of Jonathan White, but I find in the catalogue of Yale College published in 1778, that he graduated from that institution in 1764, one hundred and thirty-nine years ago. He studied for the ministry and was for many years pastor of the church in Lebanon, Conn. He had but one daughter, Sally, who was never married, and died young. He had several sons, of whom my father, Roger White, was the youngest. In 1797 or 1798 he

moved with his family to the town of Middleburg, in Schoharie-co., N. Y., where he bought a wild farm which he and his boys cleared and where he lived till the time of his death. He worked some with the boys on the farm during the week and preached on Sundays. I have some of his manuscript sermons. His son, Roger, my father, was born Sept. 7th, 1792, consequently was but five years old when they moved from Lebanon. In July 1814, he married Sarah Brant, daughter of Michael Brant, first settler of Rensselaerville, of whom mention is made in a note in French's Gazetteer of New York.

I was born August 25th, 1815, and in the spring of 1818, my father moved to the town of Smithville, Chenango-co., when I was a little more than two years old. He bought a small farm in the woods where, as yet, there was no road.

In 1837 he sold out and bought a part of lot 165 in the Grand Division of the Boston Purchase, in the town of Barker, Broome-co., being the farm now owned and occupied by Harvey Gray. At that time it was an unbroken wilderness from the little creek that passes through the farm to the Nanticoke creek three miles west, and from the Spencer Hill road north, nearly to Whitney's Point, traversed only by deer, wolves, panthers and other wild animals and hunters—no public road nearer than Hyde street on the east and Castle Creek on the south.

There were but few inhabitants at Castle Creek at that time. Deacon West lived in a small frame house near where Mr. Newcomb's house now stands, and just on the corner where we turned to go to Phineas Spencer's, on the hill west, was the old plank school house. Nearly opposite lived Root French and a little further north lived his brother, Ira French. They both owned farms on the east side, of the road and owned and ran a saw mill situated a little above where the high bridge now is, on the road running east to Chenango Forks. Nearly opposite to Ira French, lived Wm. West, son of Deacon West, not far from where Anthony North now lives. His house was a long, story and a half house. He kept a tavern and a small store, and also run an ashery

near the spot where Seaman's blacksmith shop now stands, where he made potash. David Wright lived a little further down and worked in the ashery for Mr. West.

At that time they had no stated preaching nearer than at the church down towards Glen Castle. The old M. E. church stood by the old cemetery east of the road just below John S. Knapp's farm. The Presbyterians, led by Elder Wm. West, used to hold meetings in the school house. They had a book of sermons, and as my father was a Presbyterian and I was considered a *tolerable* reader, I was often called on to read a sermon for them. Among those who formed the congregation, that I can now recall to mind, were your grandfather Foster Lilly, your father, your uncle, Orsamus, and two others whose names I have forgotten, but I think Arunah was there too. From the west hill came Deacon Arunah Hall and his family, Mr. Smith and his family, Deacon West and his family and others whose names I have forgotten.

A few years later Samuel Mills and his son-in-law, Eber Dennison, from Guilford, moved to Castle Creek. Mr. Dennison was a builder, and they hired him to build a church, and as I had some experience in that line, they hired me to work with him. They hired him by the day and me by the month, and hired him to board me. We lived in a small house on the south side of the Spencer hill road at the top of the first pitch where is, or, was a small orchard. With the exception of a few days' work Eber Dennison and myself did all the work on the first church ever built at Castle Creek. He after some years moved West. I think to Wisconsin. He was an excellent man and his was a lovely family. The church was old style, a gallery on three sides with stairs at either end of the vestibule, and session room over the vestibule and back of the pulpit, which was very high and approached by a flight of steps on each side.

About this time Alvah Hough, a wagon maker, moved to Castle Creek and located near where Mr. Rockwood now lives. His first wife was a Miss St. John. They had two children, girls. The older, Salina L., taught school in after years and married a



very worthy man, Mr. James Hogg, nephew of the celebrated Ettrick shepherd. They have now retired from farm work and are spending a quiet and happy old age at East Maine. The other daughter, Samantha went West with her father, and married a preacher by the name of Reid. She is since dead. Also at this time Hiram Denuison, brother of Eber, moved here from Guilford, Chenango-co., also David Ingersoll, a son-in-law of Samuel Mills. These all being Presbyterians were quite a help to the society.

Passing on up the hill north from Castle Creek, when I first knew it the first building was a hotel kept at that time by a Mr. Benjamin of whose antecedents I am not cognizant. Next as you took the Adams street, lived Nelson Dunham in a small house on the knoll on the left side of the road, then a young man lately married to Miss Nancy Gaylord. He was then farming and engaged in a small way in butchering and peddling meat in Binghamton. He afterward built a house on the Hyde road where John Dunham now lives and became quite wealthy. Just a few rods north of where John Dunham now lives, by turning to the left into a private road and following it about one-half a mile, we would strike a branch of Castle Creek, where lived Larnard Livermore, a local M. E. preacher on the farm that belonged to his father, who then lived with his son to whom he had given his farm. The father was very old, was at the battle of Bunker Hill—thinks he fired the first gun—was but eighteen years old—saw Gen. Warren carried by in a blanket mortally wounded, the blood running in a large stream beneath. Warren said as he passed, "Fight on boys, fight on, you are doing well." I have listened to his description of that battle with much interest when a boy. He now lies in the cemetery where the old M. E. church once stood, about two miles below Castle Creek village. I helped make his coffin. He used to show me his rifle and powder horn that he used at that battle. Wonder who has them?

HENRY M. WHITE.

*Friend Lilly:—*

You no doubt, expected me to write you long ere this, and I intended to do so, but circumstances, over which I had no control, prevented, is the only excuse I have to offer; and even now I do not feel like undertaking it, but Mr. Brandy is so urgent, I will do the best I can. I shall endeavor to describe things as I saw them seventy years ago. My descriptions must be brief, and more, or less defective, but as nearly correct as I can remember.

In the former letter I wrote you, I left you, I think, at Larnard Livermore's. I now propose that you travel with me in a *log road* (there is no other) up the creek to the north side of the Livermore clearing where we come to a sawmill, and near it a log house where lived Isaac Livermore, son of Larnard Livermore, who had bought 80 acres off the north side of his father's farm and on it was the sawmill, a primitive affair having an old fashioned *flutter* waterwheel made of wood, and about six feet long, and an upright saw hung in a heavy wooden sash. He had recently married Miss Jane Dudley, of Smithville, and moved to this place; they, like all of the Larnard Livermore family, were worthy people and very desirable neighbors.

Passing on still further up stream, through the woods, we come to another clearing of four acres, here lived Elijah Bolster, who had lately moved here from Hyde Settlement. He had cleared a small space, and built a log house, but as yet no barn. The house was near the brook, and where recently Lorenzo Hand lived and died. The house is still standing.

Still moving up stream, through dense forest, a little more than half a mile, we come to another and larger clearing, this is lot No. 196 in the Grand Division of the Boston Purchase, containing a fraction over 260 acres. It once belonged to the first wife of Elisha Pease. Over sixty years ago Elisha Pease—then an aged man—informed me that he helped survey the Boston Purchase. He married a Miss Stone, daughter of one of the Boston purchasers, who gave his daughter this lot of land. He said he cleared four acres on the flat along the creek west of the house where

Harvey Gray now lives, and sowed it to wheat and built a small log barn. He had a very large growth of wheat but on account of its being so shaded by the surrounding forest the berry shrunk badly, however, he harvested it and put it in his barn, and said he, "I did not see the place again for forty years and then it was all rotted down." He did not know of another clearing at that time nearer than Chenango Forks. He went after his wife, but learning that the place was so remote from any settlement, and surrounded by an extensive forest inhabited only by wolves, bears, panthers and other wild beasts, and traversed by Indian hunters, she refused to come, and they settled for a time in the town of Fenton, where they were the first settlers, and their son, Chester Pease—afterwards for many years a local M. E. preacher—was the first white child born in that town. Mrs. Pease died in early life, leaving two children, a son, Chester, and a daughter whose name I cannot now recall. Before her death she gave her husband a deed of fifty acres across the east end of lot 196. The rest of the lot she had divided in the centre by a line running east and west; the north half she gave to her daughter, who afterwards sold it to Graves Collins, and the south half she gave to her son, Chester. This was the farm my father bought, and is the place now owned and occupied by Harvey Gray. Elisha Pease married again, lived some years in Cincinnati, Cortland co., and not long after we moved to the place we bought of Chester Pease. Elisha Pease moved onto his fifty acres, where he lived until the time of his death. He left two children by his second wife, a son, B. B. Pease, now 87 years old and living on his farm about one mile west of Castle Creek; and a daughter, who I think is still living in Cortland co., but I am not certain.

When we moved on the farm my father bought of Mr. Pease, there was considerable clearing on the daughter's half, and Edward Graves, who owned the next farm north, had also a good sized clearing, and also a frame house and barn, so that altogether here was a good sized opening in the wilderness, but it was entirely surrounded

by forest and had no public road. Mr. Graves had a private road on north, down a steep hill to the Hyde Settlement road, half a mile distant, near which he, with his father, Abram Graves, and his two brothers, Abram, Jr., and Munson, owned and run a large double sawmill, about two miles below the head of the Castle Creek.

And now as we have got back to Castle Creek proper once more, we will endeavor to give some account of the early settlers here. Though some had moved away and others died before I came here, yet there still remained a goodly number with whom I became familiarly acquainted, and from whom I learned something of the history of those who had passed away.

The earliest settler of whom I have any information, according to my recollection, was Gen. Caleb Hyde, (father of Maj. Chauncey Hyde) who, in 1795 bought the place which Frederick Hyde now owns and occupies. He built a house on the Hill where the Lombardy poplars, (which he planted) are still growing and where the road over the hill was first made. I have been informed he died in 1820.

Maj. Chauncey Hyde, from Lenox, Mass., moved to Rochester in 1793. He afterward visited Utica, Chenango Point (now Binghamton) and lastly Barker, where he bought a large tract of forest, (the farm now owned by the heirs of the late George Hyde, the Major's youngest son.) On this farm he lived till his death. He told me that at that time he could have bought land in Binghamton, where the Court House now stands, for 10 shillings (\$1.25) an acre, but the timber was dwarf pine and oak, and he thought the soil too light for farm purposes; he wanted land capable of bearing *large trees*.

The first clearing he made was just back of where the M. E. church now stands. He built a log house where the old orchard is, above the road and a short distance north of the present house. He paid four dollars an acre for the land. He was two weeks with two yoke of oxen moving from Rochester to this place. When he got to Richford he found the road so narrow that he could not get through until he had hired men to widen the road.

Maj. Hyde raised a large family, all of whom became highly prized members of society. He was always noted for his genial hospitality. He represented Broome-co., two or three terms in the Assembly at Albany, and it was through his influence that the large town of Lisle was divided into four towns, now known as Lisle, Triangle, Barker and Nanticoke.

His son, Col. John Hyde, in common with his brother, Chauncey, Jr., who was deaf and dumb, became the proprietors of the old homestead after their father's death. After the death of Col. John Hyde it passed into the possession of the late George Hyde, the Major's youngest son, and now belongs to his heirs.

Col. John Hyde married Miss Jerusha Stiles, a sister of Judge Oliver Stiles. They had no children. They were noted for their liberality towards all worthy objects. The Col. was a public spirited man, always ready to engage in any enterprise that was likely to prove a public benefit. He represented Broome-co. in the Convention that revised the Constitution of the state of New York in 1847. He died in 1853, regretted by all who knew him, especially by the poor. I was with him the night before he died. His widow made her home with her favorite nephew, Charles Hyde, Jr., until her death, which occurred Dec. 12, 1898. She was a lovely woman and worthy of the man she so dearly loved.

Capt. Charles Hyde, an older son of Maj. Hyde, married Anne Seymour, daughter of John Seymour of Norwalk, Ct., and lived several years in the house built by Gen. Caleb Hyde, of whose farm he had become proprietor, but after the McCoy hill road was closed and the new road made he built a nice residence on the new road where his youngest son, Fredrick, now resides. He was a man of strict integrity, a good farmer and highly respected. He held many town offices and lived to the advanced age of 81 years. They had but three children, Caroline, who married John H. Knapp, and Charles Jr., who married Caroline Gates, a fine scholar, daughter of the well-known, Prof. William Gates. She died in 1901, leaving four sons, William, Merton, Julian and Lucien. Fredrick, youngest son of Charles

Hyde, Sr., married Kate Beardsley. They have six children, Arthur, Katharine, Abbie, Frank, Ruth and Lizzie.

Franklin Hyde, son of Maj. Hyde, married Maria Freeman, of Lisle. They lived several years in the house on the farm where Calvin came and settled soon after the Major came, but of which Franklin Hyde had become proprietor, but after a few years he built a nice cottage on the new road on the east end of the farm, which is now owned by the heirs of Richard Parker. Franklin was the best scholar in the family, and for many years did all the surveying in this part of the county. They had four children of whom only the widow of Col. Eldridge survives.

Another of the early settlers was Nathaniel Bishop, of Lebanon, Mass. He came in 1802, and bought a large farm. It is claimed that he built the first frame house in the settlement. It stood a few rods below Mr. Wooster's present residence. It was taken down only a few years ago. He planted an orchard and some of the trees are still standing, but are decaying, and they are being cut for fuel. They are very large—some of them two feet in diameter. He sold to Aaron Gaylord, who in after years let his sons, Charles and Elias have it. It is now owned and occupied by Elias Gaylord's daughter and her husband, J. K. Wooster.

Capt., or judge, or as he was most generally called, Deacon Oliver Stiles from Westfield, Mass., came in 1806, and bought a large piece of forest land lying north and adjoining the land afterward bought by Abram Graves, on which he built a house on the east side of the road, and a barn on the west side about one-fourth of a mile north of J. K. Wooster's present residence, also a sawmill on the creek near where John Davis now lives. All these structures are now gone.

Deacon Stiles was a fair scholar and teacher, a good farmer and business man, and of strict Puritan principles in which he faithfully instructed his family which was large and respectable. He held many important town offices and was for many years Deacon of the Presbyterian Church. After his death the farm came into the possession of his son, the late Simeon

Stiles, who sold ninety acres on the west side of the road, to the late Walter Davis, reserving the lot on the east side of the road where the house formerly stood, also a good farm on the west end of the lot, on which he built a good house and barn, and where he lived until the time of his death in 1903.

Aaron Gaylord, of Salisbury, Conn., came in 1812 and settled on what is now the farm belonging to his grandson, David Gaylord. He had at that time a family of eight children. He moved with a cart and oxen and was ten days on the road. He lived in the house with Calvin Hyde until he could build one for himself. He was a blacksmith by trade, and a good one. The old fashioned wrought iron plow share for the wooden plow was his speciality. He bought a large farm, was a good farmer, became wealthy and had a large family of seven sons and four daughters, all of whom became highly respectable members of society. Mr. Gaylord lived on the place where he first settled, till his death in 1852, aged 73 years. Himself and all his descendants have ever been noted for their benevolence to all who were in want.

Gilbert Shaffer, from Hillsdale, Columbia-co., N. Y., came in 1816, and bought out Ebby Hyde, who lived where Wm. Hyde, son of Charles Hyde, Jr., now lives opposite the M. E. church. He was a weaver by trade, but made a very good farmer. He was not an educated man but he was very anxious that his children should receive a good education, and gave them the best opportunity in his power. Chauncey, his eldest son, became quite a noted lawyer in New York City. Allen enlisted in the U. S. Navy, where he remained many years, when ill health compelled him to return to his father's house, where not long after he died of consumption. Sarah Ann, the oldest daughter, became a teacher, and wrote some for the press. She married a Mr. Truax, whose vocation I do not now recollect. Jane, the younger sister, staid at home with her parents until she married a man whose name I have forgotten, but he was engaged in the manufacture of glass. George married a Miss Hasbrook and moved to New York City.

Charles the youngest of the family, married and lived at the old homestead until his father's death. Soon after he moved away, and I think he is dead.

Lemuel Foot, from Dutchess-co., in 1817, bought of Mr. Hanchet the farm next west of what was called the Burgess farm, where Gilbert Walter now lives. They had but three children, two daughters, who died unmarried, and a son, John M., who married Ruth Wooster. He died leaving a son and daughter, both still living, as is also the widow.

Col. John Hyde became the owner of the Burgess farm which he afterwards sold to his brother, George, who sold it to Asaph Walter; it is now in the possession of his son's widow and her son, Gilbert. The Walter family are enterprising and desirable citizens.

Morris Smith was an early settler on the farm, a little west of the Lemuel Foot farm, now owned by Albert King, as is the Phelps place, now occupied by his son.

Obadiah Stephens, formerly from New Jersey, in 1846 settled on the place owned by his wife, where her daughter and husband (Alexander Dunham) now live.

At an early day a man from the East, whose name I have forgotten, bought the place now occupied by Squire Allen, cleared a part of it and seeded it with grass seed. He then left for home, leaving it in the care of John Hyde, saying he should return before very long. Time passed until Mr. Hyde thought it time for him to return. As he did not come Mr. Hyde wrote his friends and inquired why he did not come, and learned that he had not been home and that they knew nothing of his whereabouts. Mr. Hyde paid the taxes as they became due and used the cleared lot for a pasture. Many years passed and still he did not come. At length Henry Knapp proposed to buy it. Mr. Hyde told him that for ten dollars he would give him a quit claim deed, and did so. This was more than 50 years ago and since that time it has been sold several times.

Abram Graves came at an early day and bought a lot next south of Nathaniel Bishop and built a large saw-



mill which was afterward made a double mill. This was the best water privilege on Castle Creek and did an immense amount of sawing for those days; could have done more with less whiskey. I do not know the exact time when Mr. Graves came, but I think not far from 1820, and I think he told me he was from Lebanon, Ct. He had four sons, Edward, who bought and cleared the farm now owned by Harry Deidrick, of Binghamton; Abram, who was never married and died in early life; Munson, who became owner of the old homestead, which he traded with Graves Collins for the place now owned by Philo Landers, but formerly by John Lyon; and John, who married and moved to Illinois and became quite wealthy. They are dead, as are also the three daughters, ———, Lucy Ann and Catharine. The Graves family were industrious and good neighbors.

Aaron Loomis of Lebanon, Conn., in 1822, settled on a farm next south of Abram Graves. The family consisted of two sons, one of whom was drowned in the Graves mill pond, the other son died in early life; and four daughters, Lora, who married Richard Eldredge; Marcia, who first married Harvey Doubleday, who died leaving two children, George and Eliza Ann, both of whom are still living. She afterward married Augustine Hayes, (son of Elder Caleb Hayes) who several years after died leaving three children, a son, Charles J., who owns and occupies the farm first settled by George Dunham, and also a large part of the Loomis farm. He is an enterprising and up to date farmer, a public spirited citizen and kind neighbor and an efficient town officer. The eldest daughter, Ella, married Alvise Dunham. They live in Sullivan-co., Pa. The younger daughter, Ida, married Floyd Staphler, (son of C. J. Hayes's third wife). They own and occupy the north half of the Loomis farm. Mr. and Mrs. Loomis had two other daughters, Diadama and Clarissa, neither of whom ever married. The family are all dead. Marcia was the last, she died at the advanced age of 89 years. The Loomis family was always highly respected in the community.

Rev. Caleb Hayes of Greene, Chango-co., N. Y., came in 1819, and lived for awhile on the road leading from the Graves farm to Adams-st., about half a mile east of the Collins farm. He afterwards bought a farm on the Adams Settlement road south of the farm once owned by John Gray and built a house on the west side of the road, where he lived till the time of his death in 1856, at the advanced age of 85 years. He was a man of sterling integrity and for very many years the only Baptist preacher in this part of the county. He had three sons, Jacob, the eldest, who bought and settled on the farm now occupied by Theodore Green. He was an energetic farmer and an honest man. He and his wife died several years ago leaving one daughter, Amelia, who sold to Mr. Green and moved with some of her friends to Colorado. The next son was Augustine Hayes, who married the widow Doubleday and lived on the Loomis farm till his death in 1877. His other and youngest son, Caleb, Jr., married Harriet, daughter of Elder William West, of Castle Creek. They lived with Elder Hayes, and after his father's death erected a neat cottage on the east side of the road, where his son, Eugene, now resides. His widow married Eli Boardman, who died a few years ago. The widow still survives.

Elijah Wood was an early settler. I do not know his native place but think he was from Dutchess-co. He came in 1815 and bought and settled on the place next east of Aaron Gaylord, on the cross road between Hyde and Adams Settlements. He sold to John Dunham, of Dutchess-co., in 1832. The farm is now owned by his grandson, Edgar Dunham.

John Dunham had a large family of seven sons and four daughters. George first settled on the place where C. J. Hayes now lives, built a log house on the knoll just back of Mr. Hayes's large red barn, cleared a few acres and then sold to Barnum Shevaller, who sold to Abner Adams, who gave it to his second wife and she sold it to Mr. Hayes. He and Albert, his brother, then bought and settled in the forest about midway between the creek where Harvey Gray lives and the Nanticoke Creek. They were the first

settlers on what is now called Anoka, but heretofore Dunham Hill. Nelson settled where his son, John, now lives. Abner on the place that Talcott Alderman has just sold to Will Smith, but Abner sold and moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he became wealthy. Hiram after a time bought the old homestead of his brother, Lewis. John bought and settled on Dunham Hill, opposite George and Albert. Lewis sold the old place and moved to Whitney's Point. He is the only one of his father's sons who still survives. Of the daughters one married Adoniram Foot, one married John Satchwell, one Schuyler Holland, and Wealthy, the youngest, married Orrin Harris, and she is the only one of the girls still living.

Elias Shevalier, from Dutchess-co., was an early settler on the hill. He built a log house on the place now owned by the heirs of George Ross, on the south side of this road that is between this place and the Stiles farm and near the residence of the late Simeon Stiles. At that time there was no road, and from there to Nanticoke west was an unbroken wilderness. There were six children in the family, Nelson, Solomon and John, and the daughters were Betsey, Sarah and Chloe. The family are dead. They in later years built a good frame house in which no one now lives. They also had an orchard of excellent fruit which is still in excellent bearing.

John Seymour, of Norwalk, Conn., came at an early date. I do not know the exact date at which he came, but think it must have been not far from 1820. He was a tailor by trade. He bought the place next north of Deacon Stiles. He was a good farmer, and for a time kept a house of entertainment. He was an upright man lived to a good old age. His children were four in number and all of excellent character. Anson married a daughter of Ira Seymour. They had no children. He bought a large farm in Nanticoke, afterwards owned by Frank and Wm. Walter (now in possession of Frank Walter and Jas. Gaylord.) He was quite a business man. He died several years ago. Harry, the younger son, inherited the old homestead, which several years

after his father's death he sold to Wm. Beals. Since Mr. Beals's death it has passed through several hands and is now in possession of F. Hull ofinghamton. His daughter, Alma Seymour, married John Beach, father of the late William Beach, of Whitney's Point. Anne married Charles Hyde, father of Charles Hyde, Jr. Of the John Seymour family none now survive.

John Wooster, from Guilford, Chesham-co., in 1841 bought a farm next to Franklin Hyde on the road over Pease Hill. He was the father of six children by his first wife and twelve by his second wife, eighteen in all. Of the children of his first wife I have not much knowledge, but with most of the children of the second wife I have been intimately acquainted. John Wooster was an upright man, an industrious and prosperous farmer, and brought up his large family to respect industrious and good moral habits, and they have not departed from his instructions. Jasper married Harriet Knapp. Then he bought a farm at Union Centre. He prospered in his farming and was considered the best farmer in that locality. They were both highly prized members of the Presbyterian church, generous and hospitable. After her father's death their younger daughter and her husband, Albert Thorn, have lived with Mrs. Wooster and have charge of the farm, which is a good one and well kept. The other daughter, Mrs. Newell, lives at Willow Point and are doing a prosperous business there. Another son, John Wooster, married Lucy Adams, and John, Jr., is an enterprising farmer two miles below Union Centre. Another son, Phineas, married the lady who is now the wife of Abel Beach, settled on a farm next below the old Page farm, and enlisted in the army where he died during the Rebellion. Another son, Lyman, married Amelia Bowker. He was a blacksmith and a genius. He lived near Whitney's Point till the time of his death. His widow, a very worthy woman, still resides there. Moses, the youngest son, married Jennie Gray. They are in possession of the old homestead which they have very much improved. James K., another son, married Adalaide Gaylord.



They own and occupy the Nathaniel Bishop farm. They may be justly styled the pillars of the M. E. church in Hydeville, of which he is class leader. Their generosity and kindness to those in need are bounded only by their ability.

Of the daughters, Ruth married John M. Foot, who died several years since. The widow, a highly respected and worthy woman, still survives. Sarah, another daughter, became the second wife of Asaph Walter. She was highly esteemed by all who knew her. She survived her husband but a few years.

Another of the early settlers whom I had forgotten to mention was Stephen Foot, from Dutchess-co. He was a shoemaker. He bought and settled on the place where Hiram Gray now resides, and run a shop there many years. He was several times elected Justice and for many years was class leader in the M. E. church. Later he sold out and moved to Whitney's Point and continued his business a few years and then moved West, where his only surviving child, Peter, had gone several years before, and where he ended his days at an advanced age.

Another early purchaser of land in this locality was Mr. Cadwell. I do not know whether he built and lived here any time. He soon sold to Aaron Gaylord, who bought a large amount of land hereabouts and let his son, George, have this place—(now owned by Lorin Ford) also the farm now owned by Calvin Gaylord. He also gave his son, Henry, a farm through which Adams-st. passed. That part on the west side of the road is in the possession of Frank Wentworth and the part on the opposite side is owned by Frank Harrington.

And now, friend Lilly, there are many families that came here at a later date that I would gladly notice had I time, but I have already written much more than expected, or intended to, owing to people here having sent the paper containing my former letter, to their friends, who formerly lived here, some in Los Angeles and San Juan, California; and in Illinois, Missouri and other localities, who have written back requesting them to send the next paper as they wish to learn something of the whereabouts of

the *descendants* of the early settlers, and have tried to give some information concerning *them*, which I at first was not intending to do.

The first settlers on Adams-st. also I desire to have noticed, but I will leave them for an abler pen. I would suggest that you apply to Mr. Dexter Stoughton, who is a little older than I am, and lived there long before I came to Broome-co., and is able to give you a far better account of the first settlers than I could.

I would also like to give you a history of the first settlers on Dunham Hill—the Myricks, Greens and others, who came in later, but at present have not time to do so: perhaps at a later date I may do so if desired.

And now, wishing you success in your undertaking, and hoping to hear from you *soon* and *often*, for the present, I bid you adieu,

H. M. WHITE.  
Hydeville, N. Y., February 29, 1909.

### Recollections of Early Castle Creek Schools.

BY MRS. JULIAETTE ALDERMAN ROCK-  
WOOD.

I find in the "History of Broome County," mention of a log school house which stood at the foot of "Cherry Ridge" (north side) near where Charles N. Danham now lives, built about 1814. The first school was held in it the winter of 1815. Cannot learn the teacher's name. The second school house was built as early as 1830, perhaps earlier. It stood near the present site of the M. E. Church. My brothers Jerome, Israel and Edwin Alderman first attended school there. Phoebe Lamoreaux was the teacher in 1832. Cynthia Lilly was one of the earlier teachers and if there were any others previous to 1832 I have no means of knowing who they were. My sister, Mrs. Abigail Alderman Cunningham, of Anamosa, Ia., informs me that Sally Lilly was her first teacher, about 1833. Next was Susanna Glines—not noted for her loving kindness to the little ones. Next Eliza Seward, of kind and loving disposition. Then came Amanda Reed, a cousin of Isaac Livermore, whose successors were John Wire,

Lydia Harrington, William Harrington, (the latter noted for despotic cruelty), Eli Blair, Alenda and Eunice Temple, daughters of Capt. James Temple. Alenda was my brother, Talcott's first teacher, about 1836. Jane Bowen Dayton tells me that her first remembrance of this school was the winter of 1838. Her people then lived at Union, N. Y. She boarded with her annt, Mrs. Amos Adams, (Adams Street.) Her teacher's name was Peckham—"and he *did* peck 'em too." The following year her father, Isaac Bowen, moved into the Lilly district and from thence to Castle Creek the next year. Pamela Livermore was the teacher in the summers of 1840 and '41. I well recollect her as my first teacher in this school; I was not yet three years old—was not *sent* to school, but allowed to go, because I cried to go with my older brothers and sisters. I well remember that first school, young as I was. There was a huge fire place, and being in the summer time, it was filled with evergreens, out even with the hearth. I can even now see the mice peep up through the cracks and a daring one venture out into the room and scurry about, to the great amusement of us little ones, but to the great annoyance of our teacher, who sometimes would throw her ruler so straight as to forever silence the mischievous intruder. No school days before my tenth year do I remember more vividly than this one. The teacher I loved with my little whole heart; she read the Bible and prayed every morning, allowing me to sit and then kneel beside her. I being the youngest of all her numerous flock. I recall how each class in reading and spelling had to "toe the crack" in the floor, hands folded behind them when spelling, how, when one missed a word, the next who spelled correctly took the place nearer "the head," for when the pupil got to the head they were granted a mark of credit. I also recall the colors and pattern of clothing then worn by many of the scholars, showing how *lasting* are the first impressions of our childhood, more lasting than many suppose and a thought for our elders to consider, having the care of the little ones. As near as I can learn, this school house was burned down in the

fall or early winter of 1843. My father's family was then set off from this, to the Lilly district. Soon after, a new house was built near where William Slattery now lives. Harry Lyon was a teacher for two or three winter terms; Pamela Livermore several summers. Michael White was teacher for two or three winter terms. Jane Bowen Dayton says that he was the best teacher she ever had. Eli Blair was another old time teacher. He taught this school many winter terms; was a most excellent teacher, jolly, kind, true, firm; a good disciplinarian. He required strict attention to study in school hours, but was a boy with the boys and girls too, outside, tho' a man well on in years, with a large family of boys and girls of his own, when the writer was one of his pupils in the winter of 1853-4, about the last of his teaching. Charles and Alfred Pease, sons of Chester Pease, were early teachers in this school. Others were Lucy Leach, Jane Bowen, both model teachers; Emeline Smith, a relative of the family of Milton Stevens; Revillo K. Palmer, of Kattelville, was teacher in 1857. Others following were: Hattie Follett, Achsah L. Lilly, Dwight French, Frank P. Blair, son of Eli, now a physician at Waverly, N. Y., Louisa Blair (Mrs. John Knapp), Emeretta Payne, Pamela Huntley, Mary Sparkes, Mortimer Lawrence, Frank Brooks, (a number of winter terms); Almeda Woodworth, (Lisle), Hattie Blair, daughter of Edson, Delia Fuller—afterward a missionary. About 1868 the present school building was erected, near the center of the village. About this time a select school was opened and taught by a Mr. Kellogg, in the hall over the James Bristol store, now the residence of Clement L. French.

Teachers in the new school house were, first, Nettie P. Clark, now a teacher in Binghamton; others were, M. J. Gale, Lucy J. Strong, Elmore G. Page, Frank Brooks, Dora Andrews, Mary St. John, Mrs. Wilber Howard, Coe Tyler, John Brown, Merton Hyde, Katherine Hyde, Mrs. Dyer, Sadie Heacock, L. D. Wires, Walter Mix, Ada McDermott, Albert Pope, Celia Dunham, Charles Green, Mary Gilbert, Louisa Montgomery,

*Mrs. Sattie Dunham,*  
*The End*



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